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Inter-Arab Affairs

Husayn, Israeli Figures on Region, Iraqi Power

PM1605153690

[Editorial Report] London BBC Television Network in English at 2130 GMT on 15 May carries a special report from correspondent Peter Marshall on the changing balance of power in the Middle East. In response to Saddam Husayn's recent threat to use chemical weapons against Israel if the Israelis attack Iraq, former Israeli Minister of Defense Yitzhaq Rabin tells Marshall: "If Iraq will do it, they'll get back a strike with the strength of 100 times more," and Jordan's King Husayn states: "If there is a buildup to attack Iraq or the Arabs, then we will respond with everything we have."

Talking about the strength of the Iraqi Army, Colonel Ranaan Gissin of the Israeli Defense Force says: "The Iraqi Army today, conventional forces, is over 50 divisions—it's larger than the U. S. Army; the Iraqi Air Force is larger than the RAF or the German Air Force or the French Air Force. They have over 700 aircraft; they have the most highly developed attack helicopter fleet in the Middle East—the largest also: 250 attack helicopters. So you're talking here about a war machine the like of which the Middle East has not seen, and on top of that you have the nonconventional weapons which Saddam Husayn is continuing to develop."

Marshall reports that Husayn is said to model himself "on the biblical figure, Nebuchadnezzar, who routed the Israelites." Rabin tells him: "Last September in my meeting with President Mubarak I had an argument: I believe that the whole West, including pro-Western Arab countries like Egypt, were misled by the Iraqi leader's intentions. My suspicions came up when I still was the minister of defense. I said: This guy is ready to take risks."

On the threat of attack by a chemical missile, Colonel Gissin tells Marshall: "With missiles the distance is shortened to five minutes' flying time from Baghdad to Tel Aviv and less then three minutes from Damascus to Haifa or from Damascus to Tel Aviv, which gives you almost no warning time in order to prepare your population, in order to respond."

Discussing a 1981 Israeli attack on a plant in Iraq where Israel suspected that Iraq was developing a nuclear device, Marshall suggests to Brigadier General Amos Gilboa, former deputy director of Israeli military intelligence, that such preemptive raids are no longer a feasible option. Gilboa replies: "I think this is the crux of the problem—situation. Today is not as it was in 1981 because of: One, Iraq has the defense capabilities; and what is more important, today Iraq can retaliate." Marshall asks him: "How can you defend against long-range missiles from Iraq?" He answers: "Today, technically, there's no defense. As you know, we are developing now, with the Americans, the Arrow, which in some years to come will be able to cope with the missile. If we are not going in any way to strike at Iraq, and Iraq is not going to strike or do something against Israel, this is one understanding; and the other one is that we are not going to assist Iran in its rivalry, confrontation with Iraq." Marshall asks him: "Do you believe there is a misunderstanding there, because you did assist Iran in the early stages of the war?" Gilboa tells him: "Yes, I think it's...the soil, the ground is fraught with misunderstandings."

Marshall says that the Israelis have been aware of Iraq's growing military capability. Rabin tells him: "By Sukhoi-24, by ground-to-ground missile, by long-range cannon: All this was known to us for years." Marshall asks: "You knew for years about this supergun?" Rabin answers: "The supergun for over a year." "If you knew about the supergun more than a year ago," asks Marshall, "why didn't the British Government know about the supergun?" Rabin tells him: "We knew about these potentialities, as many others should have known."

On British companies selling parts to Iraq, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benyamin Netanyahu tells Marshall: "I think they think they must have been doing this for short-term gain that would not boomerang against them, but it will boomerang against all of us. Here's a regime that has used chemical weapons, has rocketed open cities, has used weapons of war indiscriminately against civilians, breaking all the norms of international conduct and violating all the agreements of international conduct. What condemnation has it received from the governments of the world? What censure has it received? Very little. Well, the most it should receive, the minimum it should receive is lack of cooperation, and that means stopping the supply of these materials of war."

Marshall reports that Jordan has recently become a crucial partner for Iraq's military strength. Benyamin Begin of the Likud Party states: "The Jordanians have in the last year increased their military cooperation with the Iraqis mainly in the air, and they have some joint training, which is a threat. Jordan at large could be used by the Iraqis as a platform to which they would move at least a part of their 5,000 tanks, with about 3,000 transporters of tanks, towards the Israeli-Jordanian border, and that's a real threat on the State of Israel." Marshall points out: "The Jordanians, though, presumably feel that they are at risk from attack by Israel; they need protection." "No," Begin assures him, "I don't think that any of these fears are justified, and when they analyze it rationally, they would know that we don't have anything to look for in TransJordan." Marshall replies: "But it's good protection Iraq offers them." Begin answers: "When you try to ride a tiger, you have to take into account that when you ride it, it's still a tiger."

Marshall reports that: "Jordan's increasingly close alliance with Iraq is leading to speculation about its own security and its independence." Talking about joint training in the air force, Major General Ihsan Shurdom, commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force tells him: "We actually don't differentiate between the Arab air

forces. We would like to have cooperation with all the Arab air forces because we are trying to reach a stage where we complement each other." Marshall asks him: "Are you, then, planning a joint squadron with Iraq: Can we get this clear?" General Shurdom responds: "I wouldn't call it a joint squadron, but we have many joint activities, and this is as a [word indistinct] one, what—as an offshoot of our economical situation. What we have done is, we increased a certain activity in the basic training with our friends in Iraq, because you cannot afford the flying hours in Jordan."

Marshall then talks with King Husayn. Following is the text of the interview:

[Marshall] It has been suggested that a deal Jordan made to get credit from Britain, to buy arms from Britain, may have ended up with the arms or the credit or both going to Iraq.

[Husayn] This is absolute nonsense, and in any event I suppose that it's really not my place to answer for the British Government if the onslaught comes from the Labor Party and opposition: These are internal British affairs. But on the other hand, I will say very clearly that Jordan has never contracted or sought any credits in England and the United Kingdom to purchase arms for its legitimate self-defense and with these arms ending up anywhere other than Jordan.

[Marshall] So the suggestion that Jordan has become, in effect, a front man for buying arms for Iraq is untrue?

[Husayn] This is certainly untrue as far as British arms are concerned, yes.

[Marshall] There is another extraordinary tale that the propellent necessary for this supergun Iraq was supposed to be building went from Europe to Iraq via Jordan disguised as a consignment of chocolate.

[Husayn] I believe that there's no limit to the wild suggestions of some very imaginative people, but I would like to say here that, as far as traffic through al-'Aqabah to Iraq and back, the right of transit is fully respected.

[Marshall] Which leaves al-'Aqabah rather like the diplomatic bag—anything can be put through; the Jordanians wouldn't know. When Saddam allowed the execution of the British journalist Farzad Bazoft, King Husayn was criticized for failing to intercede. This, he says, was unfair.

[Husayn] I did send a message; however, when you ask someone to intercede, you do not close the path in front of his attempts—and indeed, maybe those of Prime Minister Thatcher at the time—by waging one of the most vicious attacks against any country and against any leader in the media, the way I saw it waged in England when I was there during that very, very sad period.

[Marshall] So you're saying Saddam Husayn was, in a way, honor-bound to go ahead with whatever sentence....

[Husayn, interrupting] I am not saying that. I do not speak for him in that regard, but I know that, as a head of state, he wouldn't have been very happy to have gone ahead with a mere formality maybe at the end of it; and he might have responded, knowing Saddam Husayn.

[Marshall] You seem to have a very different view of Iraq from that which is generally held in the West, where Saddam Husayn's regime is viewed as a very brutal regime.

[Husayn] This is sadly the case. I believe that I've gotten to know him over the years, and I've seen what suffering he has gone through and—as has Iraq, in fact. And obviously, what is seen in the West is probably also influenced by the Arab-Israeli problem and its impact. And because Iraq came up and because Iraq managed to survive, maybe this is cause for some to be fearful of Iraq and attack it in the way it has been attacked.

[Marshall] But Iraq under Saddam Husayn is not a force for war, it's a force for peace and stability?

[Husayn] I believe it can be a force for peace and stability, and certainly it is at this stage, yes. I'm afraid, if the opportunity is not taken, if the world doesn't focus its attention on what is happening and persuades the Israelis to be positive regarding peace in the future—of their people and ours and everyone—then the results could be a disaster.

[Marshall] Do you fear the worst?

[Husayn] I fear the worst, yes, yes.

[Marshall] How much longer have we got, then?

[Husayn] We haven't got very much time, sir. We haven't got very much time, sadly.

[Marshall] Would you put it in years?

[Husayn] I don't know about years: No, I think far less.

GCC Cooperation 90 Exercise Concludes in Oman

JN1605143890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Muscat, 16 May (WAKH)—Activities of the tactical exercise "Cooperation 90," held at the Omani Air Force Base, al-Khasab, have concluded this morning. Detachments of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] air forces' helicopters took part in the exercise.

Commanders of detachments participating in the exercise praised the success and good planning which characterized the various stages of the exercise. They expressed thanks to the Sultanate for hosting the exercise. They also underlined the skill, quick action, and distinguished performance demonstrated by the participants, as well as the mutual understanding which characterized the detachments participating in the exercise.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Initiates New Military Training Strategy

PM1605155790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 May 90 p1, 2

[By Mahmud Ka'wash]

[Text] Athens—Palestinian sources have stated that a few days ago the PLO began taking steps for the implementation of a new strategy based on assembling the forces that are now spread out in the Arab states with the aim of retraining them to restore their fitness and end the state of fragmentation which has recently prevailed.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO leadership drew up its new strategy at a meeting held in an Arab capital on the recommendation of president 'Arafat for the purpose of getting the military forces, especially the Palestine Liberation Army, ready to face any preemptive strike.

They added that last week the PLO initiated steps for the transfer of 1,600-1,800 PLA fighters from Jordan to Iraq and for the transfer of the forces in Algeria and Sudan to Libya and the Yemeni Arab Republic, while keeping just limited forces in Sudan. Thirty Palestine fighters have already arrived in Baghdad from Amman as a first contingent.

The Palestinian sources denied the claim that the purpose of the new movements was to defend Iraq if the latter was the target of an an Israeli preemptive strike, because Iraq has enough military forces and military technology to defend itself against any possible attack or preemptive strike.

Explaining the assembling of forces in three Arab capitals, the Palestinian sources said the aim was to retrain the forces and also reduce the PLO high expenditure resulting from the past distribution of forces.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Views Arab Summit Tasks

LD1605211290 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian president, had talks at the presidency today with Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, in the presence of the members of the central committee of Fatah and the [Algerian] foreign affairs minister.

After the meeting, Mr. 'Arafat talked about the importance of his visit and the content of the meeting:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am indeed happy with this meeting—myself and my brethren in the Palestinian delegation—during which we presented to his excellency the president a summary of the Palestinian efforts [as heard] and the tour I undertook to all the Arab countries with a view to convening an Arab summit conference to face up to the developments, the events and the threats directed against our Arab nation, in addition to the challenges posed by the currently increasing waves of the Jewish emigration to Palestine the purpose of which is, as everybody knows, the plan for the creation of the greater state of Israel, extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. At the same time, this is aimed at expelling more Palestinians from their land so that they will be replaced by those Jews who are coming from the Soviet Union, East Europe, and some countries in Africa and elsewhere. Therefore, this will be one of the main topics to be put before the Arab summit in order to determine how the Arab leaders will face up to this serious act directed against their national security, their children in the future, their sovereignty, and their position in the world.

Hence, the threats are not only directed at Palestine but they are also directed—as it transpires from their statements—against Lebanon, Jordan, and recently Iraq in order to prevent Iraq from possessing advanced technological power and also to have a decisive influence over the Arab nation and take control of the potential of this region where the oil reserves will constitute the main reserves of the next 15 years.

I informed the brother president about all these Palestinian efforts and about the attempt we should make together, him and ourselves, to remove the obstacles. The esteem his excellency the president enjoys is not only Palestinian but it is a Palestinian, Arab, and international esteem. He also has a good standing in the eyes of all his brethren Arab leaders and the Palestinian people. Therefore we asked him to multiply his efforts to ensure that all the Arab leaders attend this important, historic, and fateful meeting for our Arab nation. [end recording]

Algeria

FLN's Mehri on 17 May March, Rotation of Power

LD1605152090 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpts] The FLN [National Liberation Front] will organize a popular march in Algiers tomorrow which will start at 1000 [0900 GMT] from the 1 May Square toward Martyrs Square via Hassiba Ben Bouali, Amirouche, and Zighoud Youcef boulevards. [Passage omitted]

On the eve of the march, which is organized by the Front, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Central Committee, held a news conference at the headquarters of the party. The FLN secretary general announced at the beginning of the conference a decision which was adopted by the Political Bureau which stipulates that the Front is is to relinquish its present headquarters in the Government Palace in accordance with the policy of austerity, reduction of expenses, return to popular origins, and implementation of the voluntary struggle from top to bottom. The decision to leave the headquarters is being implemented today so that the Government can return to the Palace.

The news conference was held to shed some political light on the march which the FLN is determined to organize tomorrow. Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri affirmed that the Front considers as positive all the marches which expressed the attachment of the people and the political associations to the democratic process, the need to safeguard it, and to guarantee conditions for security and stability because the marches contribute to the awareness of the people, to activate the dialogue between all the political currents, as well as to strengthen the democratic practice with clarity and awareness and in accordance with the legal frameworks. The FLN secretary general expressed the FLN's conviction of the need to get rid of the method of bureaucratic practices and to return to its popular origins and sincere traditions of struggle. Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri stressed another aspect of the democratic process, this being the belief in the need to open the door to the assumption of power in rotation. He said in this respect that the Front believes that true democracy is the one which opens the door to the possibility of change of regime but according to the democratic rules, the basis of which is the people's choice.

The FLN secretary general is concerned about clarifying the aims for which tomorrow's march was called for. These goals differ from the one for which the march of 20 April would have been organized. Why is that? This question was put by our colleague Mohamed Chellouche to Mr. Mehri at the end of the conference. He replied saying the following:

[Begin recording] [Mehri] The aim for which we called the [march of] 20 April has at least been achieved through public statements. I believe that everybody agrees now, including the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], to keep narrow party and electoral activity away from the parties and we have noticed the statements to Channel 1 of [FIS leader] Dr. Abassi Madani on this topic. Naturally, if the issue is brought about anew, we will put it forward by other means. However, tomorrow's march aims at a goal which is far beyond this, and this is the contribution to making the people aware of the need to safeguard the democratic process, and [aware of] of the Front's stance which is committed to the acceptance of assumption of power in rotation if this is achieved through democratic means and the rejection of any change of regime through street [action] and the change of regime in the street.

[Chellouche] Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, you said in the news conference that the militants of the FLN are aware of this march and that they are (?mobilized), can we say that the march tomorrow will be important God willing, as far as participation is concerned?

[Mehri] I believe that the militants of the FLN, the people, all the classes, the cadres, and the citizens feel the need to support the Front in its orientations and in its endeavor to entrench the political and economic reforms, to move toward democratic practices, to protect the gains of the people, and to safeguard the fundamental principles of the nation. I believe that all this is taking place in the people's minds and we expect that the militants and the citizens, men and women, will participate in the important peaceful march which will be organized by the FLN. We call on them to do this because in this lies the fortification of the true path of the country. [end recording]

Egypt

Viewpoints on Mubarak's Visit to the USSR

Newspapers Comment

NC1705080790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 17 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—Egyptian newspapers have continued to show interest in President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union, which ended yesterday, as well as in the important talks he held with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during the visit.

In their main headlines today, AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH highlighted President Mubarak's call to the Soviet Union and the United States to work to halt the Israeli settlement process and to pave the way for a peaceful and just settlement.

The papers also noted President Mubarak's visit to the United Kingdom, which began yesterday, and stressed the importance of the talks the president will hold with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, and other British officials.

The papers said these talks will deal with all issues concerning the Middle East, matters of interest to both

countries, the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, peace efforts in the region, and Egypt's talks with the IMF.

Under the headline "A Turning Point," AL-AHRAM asserted in its editorial that President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union is considered a turning point not only for Egyptian-Soviet relations, but also for Egypt's international role. The paper says the visit succeeded in opening new horizons for fruitful cooperation between Cairo and Moscow and in planning for developing relations and laying firm groundwork for joint action in all fields.

The paper noted that the visit underscored the philosophy of Egypt's political action, which is based on extending the hand of friendship to all countries, and employing these friendships in helping to implement development projects and achieve world peace, especially in the Middle East, with particular reference to the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The paper pointed out that Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement under current international circumstances, in which rapprochement is taking place between East and West, has become a necessary factor imposed by the current stage in which international ties and balances are being reformed on new bases and in which each country is seeking to establish a place for itself on the new world map.

With its strategic weight and international standing, AL-AHRAM says, Egypt is bound to be an effective and active element in the international arena, not only as a regional power in the Arab, African, and Islamic worlds, but also as an influential pivotal point for the future, as it always has been in the past.

The paper noted that President Mubarak is working to restore this effective Egyptian role through his numerous world tours. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Soviet Policy

NC1605200390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 May 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'awyb from Moscow: "The Soviet Position on the Middle East Crisis"]

[Text] The Middle East issue occupied a prominent place in the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev. Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union's involvement in this issue goes back a long way, beginning with its decision to recognize the State of Israel and continuing up to its granting of permission for Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel in large numbers. Just as the Soviet Union backed the Jewish people's right to self-determination, it is now standing behind the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state. We cannot ignore the quanitities of weapons the Soviet Union has given to the Arab states to defend their security or the international political and economic support it has accorded them to enable them to hold their ground in the face of the repeated Israeli acts of aggression since 1956.

The Soviet leaders appreciate the effective role played by Egypt to find a peaceful solution to the deteriorating situation in the Middle East by seeking a unified Arab stand toward this crisis. What concerns us now is the need to understand the views of the Soviet leadership, led by Gorbachev, on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Soviets say they do not have a magic solution to the Middle East crisis, and they do not intend to find one. However, the Soviet views can be summed up as follows:

1. The Soviet Union believes that the international community has helped the Israelis fulfill their dreams to set up the State of Israel, and that it is now Israel's turn to recognize the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state. They add that by opposing this right, Israel will in no way strengthen its security, and on the contrary will undermine all peace opportunities as well as the very legitimacy of Israel itself.

2. The Soviet Union believes that no political solution to the Middle East issue can be found without giving the Palestinians the right to self-determination and without their participation in any settlement to resolve the dispute between Israel and the Arab countries. This fact manifests itself with clear-cut political meaning in the Palestinian people's intifadah, which has become a reality and gained the support of the whole world.

3. The Soviet Union believes it is essential to hold a constructive dialogue among the parties to the crisis through mediators. The Soviet leaders believe that Israel rejects the idea of entering into a dialogue for peace with the Arabs and that the constructive and positive steps toward peace are being undertaken by the Palestinian side alone, particulary after the PLO accepted the relevant Security Council resolutions and renounced terrorism. This anti-peace stand by Israel raises question about its intentions toward its Arab neighbors.

4. The Soviet Union believes that time in the Middle East is on the side of war, not of peace, and that if the current situation remains as it is, it will lead to a tragic flare-up. This is particulary true in view of the fact that the military capabilities of the countries in the region have far exceeded their true economic and demographic weight in the world. The countries in the region receive more than 61 percent of all international arms exports, and the Middle East ranks third after NATO and the Warsaw Pact in terms of the volume of military spending. The Soviets also believe that the countries in the region hold the view that the more arms you have, the better security you enjoy. As a result, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the acquisition of weapons could expand to reach the compulsory stage of nuclear competition, thus threatening the stability of the entire world. Therefore, Moscow supports and welcomes Egypt's initiative to turn the Middle East into an area free of weapons of mass destruction.

5. The Soviet leaders believe that the key to the solution in the region lies in the recognition of the principle of the balance of interests, which is the acceptable principle in

international relations, as opposed to the principle of the balance of power, which Israel holds as its sole security shield. The Soviets believe that the principle of the balance of power provides no guarantee of security, because criteria for power differ and are not governed by well-established general rules when it comes to relations between states. They also believe that no party to the conflict can achieve its goals by force, because reliance on force will inevitably lead to new wars and more bloodshed and devastation.

6. The Soviet Union believes that any tension in the Middle East will clearly affect its own calculations, because the Soviet people are extremely sensitive toward any disturbances in the Middle East and because such tension will cost the Sovet Union dearly, be it on the political, financial, or security levels.

On the basis of these points, which constitute the Soviet Union's strategy regarding the Middle East, we can say that they do not differ much from Egypt's general views. If there are slight differences over the details or the approaches to the general settlement, the continued dialogue between the Egyptian and Soviet sides will contribute toward giving the necessary momentum to the desired settlement, because the current situation and the time are not working on the side of peace.

PLO's Kamal Welcomes Declaration

NC1605164790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has welcomed the joint declaration released at the conclusion of the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, particularly the clauses related to the peace process in the Middle East. In a statement to MENA, Kamal said that this is the first time such a declaration has been issued since Gorbachev came to power, a declaration in which the Soviet Union categorically stresses its condemnation of the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories and Moscow's commitment to the peace process in the Middle East and emphasizes the PLO's role in the peace process.

Kamal said that the joint Soviet-Egyptian declaration reflects the insistance of both Egypt and the Soviet Union on joint political and diplomatic action to guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He stressed that the joint declaration's clauses regarding the peace process, beginning with the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue or the convening of an international conference, fall within the framework of the resolutions issued by Arab summits. He praised President Mubarak's emphasis on Egypt's firm stand, irrespective of the means and methods used to achieve that strategy, and the soundness of the Egyptian stand which invigorates joint Arab action.

Iraqi Minister Arrives With Summit Invitation

NC1605134090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days. He said that he is carrying a written message for President Husni Mubarak from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn inviting President Mubarak to attend the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to convene in Baghdad on 28 May. [passage omitted]

Regional Media Groups Recommend Use of Arabsat

NC1605205890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] At the conclusion of its meetings this evening, the first conference of Arab and African media organizations emphasized the need to coordinate Arab, African, and international media activities.

The conference recommended that Arabsat be utilized to the fullest extent for an exchange of programs between Arab and African states. The conference also recommended that Arab and African funds be used to build ground stations and to secure the necessary equipment for construction of communication networks between Arab and African groups. It also recommended that cooperation be consolidated between the Arab radio union and the African radio and television union.

Libya

Arab Affairs Editor Backs Mubarak Initiative

LD1605112990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 16 May 90 (JANA)—JANA's Arab affairs editor has welcomed Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's initiative to make the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction. The editor said: We support this initiative because it is in harmony with the contents of the Green Document of Human Rights in the era of the masses which was issued by the Basic People's Congresses in the Great Jamahiriyah in the month of al-Sayf [June] 1988, and with what Libya has been calling for—a total and comprehensive ban on weapons of mass destruction. The editor reaffirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah still calls for the banning and prohibition of the use of mass destruction weapons—chemical, biological, and nuclear—and announces its support for President Mubarak's initiative because it reduces the danger of an outbreak of a destructive war in the region.

Libya, Tunisia Sign Planning Committee Minutes

LD1705054690 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpt] The minutes of the third meeting of the Libyan-Tunisian joint committee for planning were signed yesterday in al-Sha'b Hall in Tripoli. The minutes were signed by brother secretary of the General People's Committees for Planning and brother Mustafa Nabli, Tunisian minister of planning. The minutes included the formation of a permanent bureau for planning for both countries and the specification of its duties and authorities. The minutes also included working toward uniting the currency policies in order to establish the foundations for creating a united currency for the Arab Maghreb Union and uniting the customs policies and the exchange of goods and services. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Government Ministers To Respond to Censure Motion

LD1605142490 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Rabat, May 16 (MAP)—The Moroccan cabinet council entrusted some ministers 'to draw up an answer on behalf of the government and in coordination with the parliamentary majority' to the censure motion tabled by MP's of the opposition at the parliament, official sources have announced. The decision was made during a meeting chaired by Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki. A report of the meeting said that the cabinet heard a survey by Minister in Charge of Relations with the Parliament Abdesslam Baraka [title as received] on the plenary session held Monday and during which the motion was tabled.

Baraka said that at the outset of the plenary session which had to deal with the approval of international accords, the groups of the opposition parties had tabled the motion. The procedure was protested for it was contrary to the internal regulations of the House of Representatives stipulating that the motion should have been presented to the speaker of the House before its reading and discussion at a date to be appointed by the bureau of the House, he said adding that the house will discuss the motion on Thursday [as received].

MP's of the opposition at the Moroccan parliament Monday tabled a censure motion in accordance with the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution. If the censure motion were passed, the cabinet would resign. The censure motion, which was not on the agenda of the Monday session, stresses the responsibility of the government's policy concerning the deteriorating economic, financial and social situation of the country. The motion was tabled by the Istiqlal Party (nationalist), the Socialist Union for Popular Forces (USFP-Socialist), the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP-leftist) and the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS-communist).

The MP's of the majority had protested the reading of the motion before being presented to the speaker of the House of Representatives in conformity with the internal regulations of the house. The speaker of the House had said the motion will be dealt with according to the provisions of the law.

Istiqlal Communique Denounces Government Policy

LD1605144290 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Rabat, May 16 (MAP)—The Central Committee of the Istiqlal [Independence] Party (nationalist-opposition) has severely criticized the governmental policy in economic, social and cultural matters and pointed out that 'the document rectifying the 1990 finance bill' deteriorates further the purchasing power of large strata of the society. In a communique circulated Tuesday by the party's dailies 'AL ALAM', in Arabic, and 'L'OPINION', in French, the Central Committee rejects the responsibility of the deteriorating situation on 'the impopular policy pursued by the government' under the cover of 'structural adjustment' planned and defined by international loaning institutions.

'The Central Committee affirms that the measures proposed: devaluation of the national currency, cut in the investment budget, the taking in charge of the education and health sectors by local councils which do not have the necessary means to fulfil their functions constitute all new dodging of the government and favor tax evasion, unemployment, poverty, illiteracy and disease,' the communique stated.

As to the newly created Consultative Council on Human Rights, the Istiqlal Party deplored that governmental officials be members of the council which must be utterly neutral to tackle issues where the government, the authority, or the administration is involved. It deplores the fact that allowances will be given to the Council members whose work must be benevolent to avoid any influence, and [deplores] the absence of the woman in the Council even if women make up half the Moroccan population. 'Human rights problems concern both men and the women, and women's rights in Morocco are subject to many violations, in the first instance their absence at the parliament and at the cabinet....' the communique stated.

Sudan

Chadian Army Accused of Incursion, Looting

LD1605171790 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Sudan is accusing the Chadian Army of having penetrated up to 400 km inside its territory to track down Chadian opponents. According to the Sudanese foreign minister 5,500 Chadian soldiers have burned 12 villages in the Sudanese province of Darfur, looted houses, and cut the main road which runs toward Libya

to intercept a dozen trucks carrying goods driven by Libyans. According to a Sudanese general commanding the region, the Chadian soldiers have even killed 18 people and also kidnapped eight other people. The Sudanese authorities add that the Chadian troops have now withdrawn from Sudan.

Troops Withdrawn

EA1605164590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Staff Major General al-Tijani al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council and political supervisor of Darfur Region, has stated that information made available to the government indicates that the Chadian forces which recently penetrated Sudanese territory in Darfur Region have withdrawn.

His excellency told SUNA that the government was taking steps to have this information confirmed. He went on to say that the government had taken appropriate steps to deal with the situation in the areas affected in northern Darfur as the result of the recent conflict between Chadian Government forces and those of the Chadian opposition.

Maj. Gen. al-Tijani al-Tahir yesterday met at his office in the Republican Palace a delegation from the (?Khawr Rayt) area [words indistinct]. Mr. Ibrahim Idris, the leader of the delegation, said they had discussed with Maj. Gen. al-Tijani the recent events in the area such as the burning of villages and the killing of citizens.

He said Maj. Gen. al-Tijani had assured them that the central government was paying attention to the situation and had taken steps to provide relief to those affected there.

RCC Head Al-Bashir Rejects Multiparty System

EA1605172490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Al-Qadarif, 16 May (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] [Lt.] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has dismissed as unsuitable for Sudan's administration the multi-party system.

Speaking to the executive leaderships in this eastern town yesterday, Gen. al-Bashir said that the revolution had enacted the system of the popular committees prior to setting up the comprehensive political system. He spoke of the causes that led to the eruption of the revolution and the corruption inherited from the defunct regime.

He said that Sudan was looking for the efforts of its citizens to realise progress and prosperity as the foreign assistances were subjected to capitulation [sentence as received].

UN Representative To Contact SPLA on Relief

EA1405153990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The relevant authorities have begun the necessary preparations and procedures to provide funds for an extended program within the second phase of Operation Lifeline, to make relief aid available to affected people in (Manthuri), Rumbek, and Bentiu in Western Equatoria [as heard]. Brigadier [General] Dominic Kassiano, Revolution Command Council member and political supervisor of Equatoria region, has stated that Mr. (Freski), the UN representative, will arrive in Nairobi this week to contact Garang's movement for consultations about the extended Lifeline program in order to reach an agreement on a route to be used for transporting relief by land to those areas. In due course Mr. (Freski) will also visit Rome to discuss with World Food Program officials the provision of funds for the extended relief program for the affected people in the south.

Kuwait

Iraqi Deputy Premier Arrives on 'Short Visit'

LD1605084790 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, 16 May (KUNA)—The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, has arrived here today on a short visit to the country. Immediately after arrival he headed for Bayan Palace to meet the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, to deliver to his highness a message from President Saddam Husayn.

He was welcomed on arrival by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Mr. Salman Majid al-Shahin, the Iraqi ambassador Mr. 'Asim Ya'qub Yusuf, and a number of department directors at the Foreign Ministry.

Defense Minister Receives U.S. Security Official

LD1505121190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir met here Tuesday with a top American National Security Council official.

Shaykh Nawwaf and Richard Haass, assistant president of the NSC for middle eastern affairs [title as received], discussed bilateral issues and questions of common interests, an official statement said without elaborating further.

Haas arrived here earlier today in the framework of a tour to the Gulf region. He arrived here from Bahrain where he held a series of talks with top officials there.

Newspaper Advises Former Deputies Against Boycott

LD1505091190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0715 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—A local daily on Tuesday appealed to former parliamentarians and their followers to take part in the June 10 elections of a National Council.

"We say to those...forget about law violations because law will take its course...forget about irresponsible and unjustifiable acts which will only harm our beloved Kuwait, the mother of all. Forget about all this and let us give heed to the verdict of the people." AL-ANBA' daily said in a front page editorial.

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah last month decreed the formation of an interim four-year National Council to discuss the future of parliament life in the country.

A group of former deputies in the previous national assemblies were said to have decided to boycott the June elections. Leaders of the group have been engaged in holding illegal meetings in "diwaniyahs" or private meeting halls, a matter which led to the temporary arrest of some of those involved in such meetings.

"If you missed the train of nomination, try to catch the train of voting because this train will go ahead whether you catch it or not," said the paper.

The paper charged that it is neither the time nor the place for claiming illusive heroism "because it stems from personal interests at the expense of the people and their stability."

Police Reportedly Arrest Former Opposition Deputy

JN1605200590 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 May 90 p 1

[Text] Kuwait—AL-QABAS—Kuwaiti police have arrested Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i, the opposition deputy in the 1985 parliament which was dissolved in accordance with an amiri decree in 1986. Dr. al-Rab'i was arrested for violating the law on gatherings while addressing a meeting at the diwaniyah [private meeting hall] of Bu'arki. The owner of the diwaniyah was also arrested for holding an illegal meeting there.

Embassy-Level Relations With Brunei Signed

LD1405121790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1021 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, may 14 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Brunei Monday agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the level of embassies.

The foreign ministry here, in a statement said that Kuwait and Brunei have decided in a step to enhance bilateral cooperation and for the benefit of the two countries' people to elevate relations to the level of embassies.

Editor Al-Rumayhi Urges More Intifadah Support

LD1405101290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0834 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Amman, May 14 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti media leader has criticized here Arab countries for failing to honour their financial commitments towards the ongoing Palestinian intifadah.

Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi, editor of the Kuwaiti AL-ARABI magazine, also criticized the Arab media as lagging behind the Western media in reporting the uprising activities against the Israeli occupiers and reflecting its bright aspects.

Addressing the closing session of an Arab intellectual forum held here last night, the media leader described the Arab link as the weakest in the chain of supporting the intifadah and sustaining its continuation.

He suggested that such forms of public contributions and donations, like Kuwaiti adoption of Palestinian families, orphans, be generalized in the Arab countries, underlining that cash contributions is the least support one can

offer to those who sacrifice their life and blood in daily confrontations with the occupying enemy.

If inter-Arab differences are unavoidable, al-Rumayhi said it is imperative that such differences should be kept out of any activity meant to back and ensure continuation of the Palestinian popular uprising.

PDRY

East German Security Advisers Said 'Deported'

PM1605082690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 May 90 p 1

[Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish report: "Informed Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Aden Terminates GDR Security Advisers' Service"]

[Text] Aden, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The last group of advisers belonging to the former GDR intelligence organ "Stasi" who had been providing consultancy services departed the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] recently following the termination of their mission concerning the organization of training of security organs in Aden over the past 20 years.

Aden sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the GDR advisers had become a problem for the PDRY Government following the changes in their country which have led to the abolition of the Security Ministry and its organs in Berlin, to which these advisers belonged.

The sources pointed out that as a result of these changes the advisers received no salaries from Berlin for several months, nor did they receive any compensation from anywhere else.

The sources added that in view this the Yemeni authorities had only two options: to contract them on an individual basis, or to deport them. PDRY perestroyka was for the latter, thus it was decided to deport them and their families.

Nearly 200 GDR advisers have been deported from Aden. The last Cuban adviser left Aden several months ago.

While the East Germans worked as advisers in the security field, Soviet advisers worked with the Army and the Cubans supervised the people's defense forces militias. The Yemeni sources attributed the blackout on this development to security requirements and the desire not to create a thorny problem for Yemen.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives in Aden With Invitation

JN1505125790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Aden, 15 May (INA)—Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, [Iraqi] minister of justice and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Aden today.

The president's personal envoy is carrying a message from his excellency to his brother President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The message includes an invitation to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

Qatar

New Foreign Minister Al-Khatir Appointed

JN1305122590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Doha, 13 May (WAKH)—It was announced here today that Mr. Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir has been appointed foreign minister to succeed Mr. 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al-'Atiyah.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani today issued an amiri decree in this respect.

Mr. al-Khatir had occupied the position of minister of electricity and water resources.

His highness the Qatari amir also issued a decree entrusting Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, minister of agriculture and municipal affairs, with the duties of minister of electricity and water in addition to his own portfolio, for as long as the position remains vacant.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Offer of Support to Pakistan

LD1605212390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA)—In a statement made to SPA today, a responsible source denied the report carried today by the "Voice of Free Iran" [as received] to the effect that Saudi Arabia will provide Pakistan with military support should a war break out in Kashmir.

The source also stressed the strength of the Saudi-Pakistani relations and the continuing cooperation between the two countries in the various fields.

Saudi-Iraqi Joint Committee Concludes Work

LD1405115190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpts] Riyad 14 May (SPDA)—The Saudi-Iraqi joint committee concluded its work this morning. [passage omitted]

In the field of trade cooperation, the two sides reviewed the development of trade relations and the point attained by trade exchanges between the two fraternal countries. They

showed satisfaction with this development, and exchanged lists of national exportable goods produced in each of the two countries, so that the lists may be circulated to the concerned quarters. [passage omitted]

The two sides in the committee examined the question of setting up trade centers of national products in each of the two countries, and agreed that this will be discussed between all those in charge of organizing fairs at the Ministry of Trade of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the general company for fairs and trade services in the Republic of Iraq, so as to look into ways of realizing this.

The two sides stressed the need to implement the model of the unified Arab certificate of origin on all the goods exchanged between the two sides, a model adopted by the economic and social council of the Arab League at its 44th session. The Iraqi side took notice of the desire of the Kingdom to exempt from this certificates of origin emanating from towns where there are no Iraqi consulates, or which are too far geographically from Iraqi confirmation centers. The Iraqi side promised to study this in the framework of laws and regulations in force. [passage omitted]

TV Cooperation Agreement Signed with France

LD1305223590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The signing of the renewal of the accord on technical cooperation in the field of the development of television services in the Kingdom was signed today—Sunday—at the office of the Ministry of Information between the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French Republic. The accord was signed on behalf of the Saudi Government by His Excellency the Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir and on behalf of the French Government by His Excellency the French Ambassador to the Kingdom Jacques Berniere. The duration of the accord is five years.

Following the signing the information minister expressed his hope for the continuation of technical cooperation in the field of the development of television services between the two friendly countries in accordance with the aspired aims of true cooperation for both countries, firmly based on mutual respect. The minister reaffirmed that the kingdom, according to the guidelines of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, wishes to bolster this cooperation due to the positive effects this cooperation has on the present and future relations between the two countries.

The French ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the method of technical cooperation in the field of television between his country and the Kingdom. He also praised also the continued development processes being carried out by the Kingdom television service, and underlined the plans and programs which aim at expanding the television transmission coverage area in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The signing of the agreement was attended by Ibrahim al-Qadhi, the undersecretary of the Information Ministry for administrative affairs; Fu'ad Adib Tahir, assistant undersecretary of the Information Ministry for engineering affairs; Ahmad Bin-Ali-al-Qahtani, director general of the office of the information minister; Yasin Maktabi, advisor at the office of the Minister of Information; the advisor of the French agency [as heard]; and officials of the French Embassy in the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Invitation to President

JN1405173590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 May (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn which includes an invitation for his highness to attend the emergency Arab summit conference in Baghdad.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, received the message from Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, currently on a visit to the UAE.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan said the entire Arab nation hopes the Arab summit will achieve its anticipated results. He also expressed hope that these results will be positive in line with the Arab nation's ambitions to settle its problems, and commensurate with the challenges it is facing.

Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan also said he hoped the Arab summit would agree on a strategy capable of dealing with all the accelerating changes in accordance with the interests of the Arab nation, in order to safeguard its present and future rights.

Yemen Arab Republic

Saudis Deny Instigating Tribal Disturbances

JN1505185390 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 May 90 p 1

[Report entitled: "Saudis Deny Yemen Ploy"]

[Text] Riyadh, May 13, (Agencies)—Saudi Arabia today categorically denied press reports that Saudi Arabia is instigating Yemeni tribes on the border to undermine Yemeni unity which will be announced shortly.

A Saudi official told the Saudi news agency 'SPA' that such reports are untrue, and that his country was the first state to bless the unity of the two Yemens.

The official added that Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz had officially announced at the time his

country's blessing during the visit of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the city of 'Hafr al-Batin.'

The source went on to say that Saudi Arabia strongly denies such false claims, and Saudi Arabia renews its supportive stance towards Yemen's unity as a step towards Arab solidarity.

Britain's [THE] INDEPENDENT newspaper reported yesterday that Riyadh was paying Yemeni tribesmen to disrupt unification.

Meanwhile, South Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister has praised his country's excellent relations with Kuwait and appreciated her mediation role in resumption of diplomatic ties between Aden and Washington.

Dr. Shayi' Muhsin also commended, in press statements published in Kuwait today, Kuwait's attitude from the two parts of Yemen and her role, at difficult times, of bringing the two sides' position closer for unitary action.

The official, who is in Kuwait in the course of a tour of several countries, described the process of unification between the two Yemens as irreversible.

North and South Yemen have united their armed forces and agreed to withdraw them from their capitals in the latest swift move towards the historic merger due this month.

Officials and diplomats have widely predicted that a united Yemen would be declared before the end of May.

The Sanaa-based weekly 26 September quoted "reliable sources" today as saying the declaration would come during the last week of May, six months ahead of schedule.

"All arrangements for this historic event in the life of Yemen and the Arab nation have been completed and there remain only minor executive measures," the paper said.

North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said yesterday the security forces of both countries had been dissolved.

"Armies will be moved to border areas of the new state and there will be a larger role in the cities for a unified police force," one diplomat said.

Iraqi Minister Arrives With Invitation for Salih

JN1405183090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Brother Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, Iraq's justice minister, arrived in Sanaa this evening bearing an invitation from President Saddam Husayn for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to attend the extraordinary Arab summit set for 28 May in Baghdad.

Committee Discusses Draft Laws on Unification

Political Parties

JN1305101590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, chaired at the Presidential Palace in Ta'izz today, a meeting of the General Committee during which topics on the agenda were discussed.

The Committee discussed what was achieved by the political regulation committee during its fourth and final session, which was held in Ta'izz, and during which it approved the draft resolution on the fundamental (?principles) of the law on political parties and organizations and a draft resolution on the basic trends of the political action charter for political parties and organizations in the Yemeni republic. The Committee emphasized the participation of political parties and organizations in the Yemeni arena in the discussion of the two draft resolutions.

The Committee also discussed the topics related to mass organizations which have no equivalent in the Yemeni arena and stressed the need to expedite work to amalgamate them in united frameworks and structures.

The Committee also resumed its discussion of a number of issues and subjects pertaining to improving the organizational work of the General People's Congress and its various bodies to correspond to the developments in the Yemeni homeland.

The Committee approved the agreement on joint action between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party. It also approved the agreement related to the document on regulating party and political action in the military and security institutions during the transient phase.

The General Committee also considered a number of developments of concern to the Yemeni homeland, as well as the current developments in the Arab arena.

Press, Publications

JN1305192990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpt] Brothers Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the Standing Committee, and Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, member of the [Yemeni Socialist Party] Central Committee and minister of culture and information [in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen—PDRY], signed the draft law on press and publications in the Yemeni republic at the Ministry of Information and Culture today. The draft law contains 117 clauses.

In its general principles, the draft law emphasizes the freedom of knowledge, thought, press, and expression as

part of the citizens' rights to express their thoughts through words, writing, photography, painting, or by any other means of expression.

The draft law also states that the press is independent and plays a free role to serve society, develop public opinion, and express its currents. The draft law also stipulates the protection of the rights of journalists and authors and provides the necessary legal guarantees to practice journalism.

The draft law gives the right to publish newspapers and magazines to citizens, recognized political parties, individual and public corporations, mass and cultural organizations, and ministries and institutions whose work require it.

The two brother ministers also signed the draft law pertaining to the establishment of the Yemen Radio and Television General Corporation. The first clause of the law stipulates that the [Yemen Arab Republic—YAR] Radio and Television General Corporation and the [PDRY] Radio and Television Corporation and all their components be amalgamated into the Yemen Radio and Television General Corporation. This corporation will be affiliated to the Ministry of Information and come under the direct supervision of the minister of information. It will also have corporation status and a separate budget.

The law established the corporation's objectives in light of the important phase that our people will reach with the establishment of the Yemeni republic.

The two ministers also signed an agreement pertaining to press institutions in the unity state to be formed as follows:

—The Al-Thawrah Press Establishment, which publishes the daily newspapers AL-THAWRAH and AL-WAHDAH, the bi-weekly magazine MA'IN, and the weekly sports magazine AL-RIYADI.

—The al-Jumhuriyah Press Establishment, which publishes the daily newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH and which will publish the newspaper AL-MASA' in the future.

—The 14 October Press Establishment, which publishes the daily 14 UKTUBAR, and the 14 October House for Importing and Distributing Publications.

The minutes of the meeting state that all press foundations will be affiliated to the Ministry of Information.

An agreement in principle was reached to set up a supreme press council to regulate and supervise all official, party, and private papers according to a specific law that will be formulated by a competent authority in the Yemeni republic.

Also during the meeting, an agreement relating to the establishment and organizational structure of the General Cinema and Theater Corporation was signed. The General Cinema Corporation, theater directorates, and cinema production institutions in the Yemeni homeland will be incorporated in this corporation.

Media Accord Signed With Qatar 16 May

JN1605150190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Talks between our country and Qatar concluded today at the Culture and Information Ministry in Sanaa headed by the two brothers Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of culture and information and member of the Standing Committee, and Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani, Qatari minister of information and culture. They signed a media accord.

Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi delivered a speech on the occasion, in which he expressed his satisfaction at reaching this agreement, which will bolster information cooperation between the two countries and expand its scope.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani expressed his happiness at visiting our country and signing this media agreement, which will expand and strengthen cooperation.

'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Jahhaf, our country's ambassador to Qatar; brother 'Ali al Nu'aymi, Qatari ambassador in Sanaa; brother Mutahhar Taqi, undersecretary of the Culture and Information Ministry; and members of the delegations to the talks attended the signing ceremony.

Leadership Supports, Encourages Peace With Iran

JN1705072590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0605 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that the political leadership is providing all support and encouragement for the continuation of peace efforts between Iraq and Iran with a view to putting an end to the no war-no peace situation.

In an article today, the paper says Iraq's responsive reaction to the new international efforts is not the first of its kind, but we hope that it will be the last—that is, we hope that a treaty of peace and good neighborliness can be signed and that the hostile spirit and desire for expansion, which characterized Iranian regimes over the ages, will disappear for ever.

The paper indicates that the opportunity to realize this major goal is now available in view of a number of facts and considerations. Foremost among these is the fact that the Iraqi victory is an established fact that cannot be denied or influenced by political maneuvers, and the fact that the attempt to maintain war prospects under the no war-no peace situation is a colonialistic Western conspiracy targeting all the peoples of the region in order to achieve economic and political interests.

The paper adds: It is self-evident that Iraq's realization of these facts and considerations, which resulted in full and objective compliance with all peace endeavors, should be met with a similar Iranian realization of the outcome of the conflict. The colonialistic forces are painstakingly trying to maintain the situation as it now stands, or perhaps create something worse. The aim now is not to keep Iran preoccupied, but to obstruct Iraq's power and preoccupy the Arab nation.

The other fact, says the paper, is that Iraq is concerned about and is earnestly seeking to hold the extraordinary Arab summit on its soil while a new page in the process of peace efforts has already been started. In our view, this cannot be achieved except through a joint conception of the peace process—a conception based UN Resolution 598.

UN Official To Visit Observer Group

JN1605194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Goulding said that the aim of his visit is to acquaint himself with the work and status of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, [UNIIMOG] tasked with supervising the Iraq-Iran ceasefire on the Iraqi side. He will also hold talks with Iraqi officials on the nature of the UNIIMOG work.

Ramadan: Prior Knowledge Averted 'Enemy' Attack

JN1705074490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 May 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff writer "with agency dispatches"]

[Text] Iraq had information that it was targetted for a military assault much larger in magnitude than the 1981 Israeli bombing of its nuclear reactor, and leaks that Baghdad had advance warning of the plan appear to have aborted the planned assault, according to Taha Yasin Ramadan, the country's first deputy prime minister.

"Iraq is well prepared and will retaliate for any attack on its territory," Ramadan was quoted as saying in an interview published in Egypt's AL-AHALI Arabic-language daily on Wednesday. [16 may]

In the interview, Ramadan, who is number two after President Saddam Husayn in the Baghdad hierarchy, also said that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had accepted in principle a proposal by President Husayn for a face-to-face meeting to discuss peace between the two countries after eight years of war and two years of a "no-war-no-peace" situation.

"No one realises the nature of the problems of the two countries more than the Iraqis and Iranians themselves," Ramadan was quoted as saying by AL-AHALI. The Iranians have agreed in principle to the (proposed) meeting provided that preparations for it were made by representatives of both sides," he said.

"We are now in the process of obtaining information on the mission of these representatives, and the date and venue of the summit," Ramadan said. "Our reply to the Iranians will be positive since direct dialogue can lead to far speedier results than that could be obtained through international organisations," he added in an apparent reference to the stalled U.N.-mediated Iran-Iraq negotiations which followed the 1988 August ceasefire which ended the war.

In his disclosure of an impending attack on Iraq, Ramadan did not name the involved party, but it was obvious that the Iraqi leader was referring to Israel, particularly that President Husayn announced last month that his country had binary chemical weapons and warned that it would use them to retaliate if the Jewish state attacked.

"We were expecting a far bigger attack than the one in 1981 (when Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor); the fact that the assault did not take place until now is due to the fact that news of the plan was leaked," Ramadan told AL-AHALI.

According to Ramadan, Iraq "refrained from revealing (its) knowledge about the enemy plans until (it) was fully prepared to counter it."

"When the imperialist forces saw that Iraq had won the war with Iran, they realised that this victory will not

remain confined to Iraq's geographical location but would extend to the Arab depth," AL-AHALI quoted Ramadan as saying.

Ramadan also disclosed that it was proven that Farzad Bazoft, a London-based Iranian journalist who was executed by Iraq early this year after he was found guilty of spying for Israel, had "paved the way for Israel to attack the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis a few years back."

"The spy case was followed by the episodes about an Iraqi 'supergun' and fabricated stories about Iraq as a country which does not respect human rights, deals with dangerous weapons and supports terrorism," Ramadan said.

"These claims were intended to prepare the ground for Israel to launch an aggression on Iraq, the Iraqi leader said.

The May 28 Arab summit in Baghdad, Ramadan said, will deal with the central theme of how to confront with [as published] the escalating threats against Iraq, and the dangers posed to the Palestinian uprising, "which is the target of plots at eliminating it, raising the prospect of a catastrophe no less disastrous than that of 1948."

Summit Should Yield Integrated Plan of Action

JN1405163290 Baghdad Voice of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 May 90

["An Opinion on a News Report" feature]

[Text] News agencies have quoted Zionist government sources as saying that Shamir has asked his military and intelligence officials to study the possibility of a military action against both Jordan and Iraq in light of the outcome of the Arab summit scheduled to take place on 28 May.

Brothers: Shamir, no doubt, has not yet abandoned his attempts to attack Iraq or Jordan, since he is basically anxious to fulfill the Zionist dream, weaken Arab capability, and swallow and digest more Arab territories. Several sources had already stressed that Shamir is seeking such an act of aggression for tactical as well as strategic considerations. He believes that attacking Iraq or Jordan would enable him to retain his current government, and he also believes the time is now right for aiming military strikes at the upsurging Arab power before it becomes militarily superior—after Iraq alone managed to create a state of balance and deterrence. Shamir also holds fast to the plan for a so-called greater and stronger Israel. For this plan to be achieved, it needs hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, together with other requirements such as settlement in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon and the procurement of funds and assistance from world Jewry and the United States. Furthermore, it needs to undermine Jordan's steadfastness and obstruct Iraq's upsurge.

In brief, Shamir and his government are putting forward a new program of war, expansion, and aggression. This is not a secret program, but a declared and known one threatening the present and future of the Arab nation and, basically, pan-Arab security.

Here we pose the following question: What is our program to counter the Zionist program? What are our steps to curb Zionist belligerence? Arab Iraq answered this question when it built the force of strategic deterrence and put it at the disposal of the Arab nation and when it placed the Arab masses and leaders face to face with their historic responsibilities at this difficult and complex phase. The Arab masses, represented by their political, intellectual, and social personalities and their parties and popular organizations, have responded to the pan-Arab call of responsibility issued from Baghdad. An Arab popular conference to express solidarity with Iraq and face Zionist threats and challenges was held under the slogan: "Our Strength Lies in Our Unity and Our Weakness Lies in Our Divisions." Arab leaders also responded to the call, and have agreed to convene their extraordinary summit in Baghdad on 28 May.

We hope and wish that Arab leaders will deal firmly and seriously with the Zionist threats and external challenges, and that they will carefully discuss the Zionist scheme before making decisions. This scheme excludes no Arab country; it is a hostile scheme targeting pan-Arab security in its entirety as well as the present and future interests of the Arab nation.

If the decisions prove to be below the level of the current challenge, the Zionists will not be deterred; they will not retreat from their dangerous intentions and goals. We need a courageous and collective Arab action that mobilizes all the nation's capabilities and resources and reflects the creative common Arab will. The summit is not required to raise the slogans of solidarity with Jordan, Iraq, or the Palestinian intifadah, but to decide how the Zionist threat can be countered militarily, politically, and economically. We are required to have our own integrated plan of action to face the one held by the Zionist enemy.

Reportage on SFRY's Markovic, Delegation Visit

Arrives 12 May

JN1205203590 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 90

[Excerpts] This afternoon, Ante Markovic, president of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, arrived in Baghdad on an official four-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

He told INA he was glad to be visiting Iraq and characterized his country's relations with Iraq as good.

Yugoslavia has assisted in Iraqi economic programs, demonstrating a joint desire to develop relations between the two friendly countries, he said.

Economic Talks Begin

JN1205210390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] The economic talks between Iraq and the SFRY began at the Trade Ministry today. The Iraqi side was headed by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the SFRY side was headed by Development and Planning Minister Yuju Marnij [title and name as heard]. The two ministers expressed their joint sincere desire to promote cooperation relations in all areas on the basis of mutual understanding and the interests of the two friendly countries. The Iraqi and the SFRY sides discussed ways to continue and promote economic, trade, and technical cooperation based on mutual interests and the friendly relations between the two countries.

Meets With Saddam

JN1305121690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received this morning Mr. Ante Markovic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and the delegation accompanying him.

Mr. Markovic conveyed to the president the greetings and wishes for good health and happiness of SFRY President Janez Drnovsek and to the Iraqi people further progress and prosperity.

President Saddam Husayn conveyed to Mr. Markovic his greetings to President Janez Drnovsek and good wishes for friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries to bolster progress and prosperity and to realize the joint interests of the two friendly peoples.

During the meeting, they discussed the firm bilateral relations and means to support and develop them in all fields.

Discussion also centered on issues of mutual interest, especially current international changes and their repercussions on world countries and in dealings among nations. Their discussion also included the Nonaligned Movement and means of bolstering the Movement and strengthening its role of confronting current international changes.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and the ambassadors of both countries in each of Baghdad and Belgrade.

Ramadan Receives Markovic

JN1305190290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today Mr. Ante Markovic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction with the progress and development of these relations in recent years and the importance of continuing to find new and different ways of strengthening and bolstering them.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Ante Markovic stressed the importance of bolstering Iraqi-Yugoslav relations and the effectiveness of their international role, since both countires belong to the Nonaligned Movement.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the world is undergoing political and economic changes and developments that require relations between the two countries, having common objectives and history, to be closer and greater in order to deal with those changes.

Diplomatic Talks Begin

JN1305191690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the SFRY began at the National Assembly this morning. The Iraqi side was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. The SFRY side was headed by Ante Markovic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

During the talks, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraqi-SFRY relations, whose foundations were laid by President Saddam Husayn and late SFRY leader Tito, are still growing because they are based on principles and noble common goals.

Ramadan added that the development of Iraqi-SFRY relations is having a positive impact on their joint interests owing to the important role the two countries are playing in the Nonaligned Movement and the international arena. He said colonialist and imperialist powers were working to weaken this cooperation in any way in order to serve their own interests. This, he said, means that leaders and officials in developing countries should be aware of these attempts and should reject them.

Ramadan also said that Iraq wants to strengthen its relations with the SFRY—relations that have grown substantially in recent years. He then reviewed Iraq's economic situation and prospects for a prosperous future.

For his part, Ante Markovic said that the SFRY has a great regard for its relations with Iraq and that his current visit is part of efforts to strengthen and expand cooperation in every area.

Markovic went on to say that continued meetings and talks between the two friendly countries are promoting cooperation and are opening the door for more comprehensive and expanded relations to achieve common goals and interests. During the talks, the two sides also discussed the situation in both the Arab and international arenas and stressed the importance of continued coordination and cooperation in harmony with current

developments. They also discussed how to strengthen current and future relations in all areas.

The talks were attended for Iraq by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Iraqi-SFRY joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, the under secretaries of the Foreign Ministry and the Housing and Reconstruction Ministry, other officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Belgrade. They were attended for the SFRY by Bozidar Marendic, SFRY minister of development and planning and head of the SFRY delegation to the joint committee, members of the SFRY delegation, and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan, Markovic Resume Talks

JN1505122590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today Ante Markovic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

During the meeting, the two sides resumed talks on prospects for cooperation between the two countries in all fields. Ramadan and Markovic expressed their satisfaction with the atmosphere of the talks, and their desire to open new areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries to serve their mutual interests. [passage omitted]

Talk on Committee Results

JN1505190890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1802 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received Mr. Ante Markovic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

During the meeting, which was their second one today, they reviewed the results of subcommittee sessions of the joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Ramadan, Markovic Continue Talks

JN1605142390 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier received here today Mr. Ante Markovic, president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council currently on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan confirmed that the development of Iraqi-Yugoslav relations reflected the joint goals and principles and the countries' keenness on promoting their cooperation.

He added that Yugoslavia and Iraq, founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement, doubled their efforts to maintain dialogue and talks to give an impetus to cooperation process.

Mr. Markovic confirmed his country was keen to strengthen its relations with Iraq for it had an effective and important role on Arab and international arenas and in the Non-Aligned Movement.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi side to the joint committee for economic, commercial and technical development and Mr. Bozidar Marendic development minister and head of the Yugoslav side to the joint committee.

Departs, Joint Minutes Signed

JN1605151390 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—President of the Yugoslavian Executive Council Ante Markovic left here today concluding a five day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Mr. Markovic held talks with President Saddam Husayn tackled bilateral relations and means of promoting them in different fields as well as the Non-Aligned Movement's developments, and international changes and their impact on world nations. [as received]

Meanwhile, Iraq and Yugoslavia signed a joint minutes concerning economic, commercial and technical cooperation in addition to long-term cooperation agreement in all fields.

Poland's Jaruzelski To Visit; Date Not Set

TA1705102490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Polish President General Wojciech Jaruzelski has accepted an invitation from President Hayim Herzog to visit Israel. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the date for the visit will be coordinated soon.

Students to PRC 'Soon' Under Exchange Accord

TA1705111990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 90 p 2

[Report by science and health correspondent Judy Siegel]

[Text] For the first time, Israeli students will soon be officially allowed to go to China to study Chinese language and culture.

The arrangement is the result of an exchange agreement reached a few months ago by Foreign Ministry Director-General Re'uven Merhav and Dr. Me'ir Tzadoq, director of the Israel Academy of Sciences, with China's ambassador to the UN, Li Luye.

An Israeli academic centre will open in China in a few weeks, according to the academy. The students will receive scholarships from the Foreign Ministry that will fully cover their flight, tuition, living expenses, and medical insurance.

The one-year academic programme is meant for students who specialize in East Asian studies and who have finished at least the second year towards their B.A. degree.

A number of Chinese students, who are specializing in Hebrew and in the study of Jewish history and culture, have already arrived in Israel.

Jordan Cooperates on Fly Extermination Program

TA1705090090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Israel and Jordan are cooperating on locating and exterminating flies in the northern Dead Sea area. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that a joint committee representing the Jordanian health authorities and the Israeli Health Ministry has been in operation for six weeks on this issue.

The initiative came from a tourist resort on Qalya beach which was bothered by large numbers of flies. It turns out that the flies are laying their eggs in Jordanian territory. Contact was made between health authorities from both sides, and joint extermination activities are under way.

Our correspondent points out that the Jordanians are interested in exterminating the flies in the northern Dead Sea area because they are also developing tourist sites there.

Envoy Denies Israel Training Sudan Rebels

TA1705073790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Israel denies that it is training the rebels in southern Sudan. Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia Me'ir Yosef has said that the Sudanese foreign minister's claims are totally unfounded. Sudan claims that Israel began to train the rebels after the resumption of diplomatic relations between Addis Ababa and Jerusalem.

Statistics Bureau: Economic Slowdown To Continue

TA1705111390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 90 p 8

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The economic slowdown will continue in 1990, making it the third consecutive recession year, according to preliminary figures for the first four months of the year released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Ezra Hadar, director of the bureau's national accounts division, said at a news conference that if the economic trends recorded during the first trimester of 1990 continue unchanged, the annual growth rate for the year will be somewhere between 1 percent and 1.5 percent.

More unemployment, fewer exports, increased imports, growing consumption and a worsening of the trade deficit—this is what the first four months of 1990 have brought, Hadar told reporters.

He said that the rate of unemployment for the period was 9.3 percent, up from 9 percent in the last quarter of 1989.

Hadar also said that exports fell by 5 percent during the first trimester of this year. "Last year, we experienced first a growth in exports, then a slowdown, and now there is a drop," he said.

During the period, imports increased by 8 percent, both in quantity terms as well as in dollar terms, as compared to the last four months of 1989.

This increase in imports, coupled with the decrease in exports, resulted in a $280 million increase in the trade deficit by the end of the first four months, not including trade in diamonds and fuel.

Hadar also said that, on average, the 90,000 public-sector employees experienced a 3 percent decrease in salary during the first trimester of 1990, as compared to the last trimester of 1989.

At the press conference, Hadar also presented the final figures for the 1989 national accounts. The preliminary figures for 1989 were reported on Jan. 1, and Hadar said that the final figures were not much different than those reported then.

During 1989, Gross Domestic Product [GDP] grew by 1.3 percent, but in per-capita terms, remained frozen. In the business sector, output grew by 1.5 percent, but

labour productivity actually dropped by 0.5 percent, after rising by 1 percent in 1988, and by 4 to 5 percent between 1985 and 1987.

In productivity terms, industry fared better than the business sector as a whole: Labour productivity in the industrial sector increased by 2 to 3 percent. Industrial output dropped by 2.3 percent in 1989, after dropping by 3.5 percent in the previous year. Especially hard hit were the clothing, textile and leather industries, where output has fallen by 15 to 25 percent in the past two years.

The construction industry fared better than any other sector last year, showing a 4.5 percent increase in output, mostly due to the increase in the construction of housing. Agricultural output grew by 3 percent last year, after falling 7 percent in the previous year.

Consumption fell last year in almost all categories, save public civilian consumption, which rose by 1.9 percent. Local defence spending dropped by 2 percent.

Especially alarming was the 9.5 percent drop in business-sector investments registered in 1989, following a 0.6 percent drop in 1988. These investments are crucial for growth in the economy.

On the other hand, investment in housing rose by 6 percent, after remaining static in 1988, and increasing by 8 percent in 1987.

Private disposable income rose by 4 percent last year. As a result of the increase in income and the drop in consumption, saving rose by 12 percent in 1989, after increasing by 6 percent in 1988.

Government spending dropped to 57 percent of National Disposable Income, as compared to 59 percent in 1988, and 60 percent in 1987. The drop is attributed mostly to cuts in defence spending.

The government deficit as a percentage of GDP reached 5 percent in 1989, up from 4 percent the previous year. Private savings rose to 9 percent of National Disposable Income, up from 4 percent in 1988.

Charges of Violence Against Children Anger Army

TA1705055490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] A study sponsored by the Swedish Save the Children charity has accused Israeli soldiers of systematic violence against Palestinian children in the territories. The 1,000-page report, released today, says 159 children under the age of 16 were killed in the first two years of the intifadah and estimates that over 50,000 were injured by gunfire, beatings, or tear gas.

The report sparked an immediate angry reaction from the Army. An official military source said Palestinian leaders exploited children as front line rioters and then glorified them as martyrs.

IDF Affirms 'Sensitivity'

TA1705105990 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 17 May 90

[Report entitled: "Children as Instruments of the Uprising;" "communicated" by the Israel Defense Forces "spokesman"]

[Text] Throughout the years of its administration in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has set itself the goal of improving and advancing the standard of living of the local population, while upholding its obligations under international law to maintain law and order in the region. As part of this policy, far reaching changes have been made in various spheres concerning civilian life in general and child welfare in particular. In this framework, great improvements have been made in the education and health systems.

The exploitation of children for propaganda purposes is not new. In Western culture, children are perceived as being innocent and pure. This fact has been exploited by leaders of the uprising for dual purposes, in order to advance their goals.

On one hand, children have been sent to the front of the confrontation with the IDF. Already in 1988, the roles that children had to fulfill in the uprising were presented in an article published by the PLO. Children were called upon (leaflet in Feb. '89) to "throw stones at the occupier". On the other hand, the leaders of the uprising have not been deterred from making political use of the sometimes tragic results which have followed the fulfilling of these orders and the ensuing confrontations [which have taken place]. These people have undertaken to exploit the IDF's sensitivity in all matters concerning children. Sensitivity which comes to light by imposing limitations and self-restraint in this sphere. [sentence as published]

In 1968, the IDF raised the age of criminal responsibility from 9 (according to Jordanian law) to 12. In addition, legislation passed, included special instructions and limitations regarding legal procedures involving minors and published guidelines regarding the detention of minors.

As in all other spheres, the IDF adheres strictly to these instructions. Any complaint, which constitutes a deviation of these rules, is thoroughly investigated and dealt with by the judicial authorities.

It is therefore surprising that the publishers of the [Swedish Save the Children Fund] report refrained from presenting its contents to the IDF for affirmation and comment before publication. This only gives rise to speculation that the good of the child was not its sole intention. The IDF has repeatedly expressed its regret concerning injury to civilian population, especially children. It has in the past and will continue in the future to take all the means at its disposal necessary to prevent such tragic events.

Editorial Discusses Shamir Government Guidelines

TA1605165890 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 May 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Likud's Program"]

[Text] Two days ago [as published] Israeli newspapers published the guidelines of the political program which the next Likud government will adopt if Yitzhaq Shamir succeeds in forming a government before the end of this week, or during the coming 15 days. He will demand this extension from Israeli President Herzog in order to overcome his current difficulties regarding distribution of Cabinet portfolios and the participation of religious parties, particularly SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the NRP [National Religious Party].

At any rate, the interesting thing about this program is the total abrogation of Shamir's previous plan which his coalition government adopted on 14 May 1989. Of the 32 clauses on which this program is based, it becomes obvious that the Likud, which is acting to form a narrow-based government under its leadership, will seize the "opportunity" to intensify and expand settlement in the occupied territories. Although the number of settlements has not been clearly stated in this program, lack of a precise figure gives the Likud, in return, a free hand to establish new settlements without any reservation!

As for Jerusalem, as far as this program is concerned, it is "Israel's united capital" in its Eastern and Western parts, and the proposed political settlement neither includes Jerusalem nor its Palestinian residents. This means that the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will remain as they are at present, mere ink on paper, or simply a static addition to the library of antiquated proposals, plans, and programs!

What will the United States, which opposes settlement in principle and affirms the need for a political settlement in which Jerusalem's Palestinian residents participate, say in the face of all this? And what will the extraordinary Arab summit, which so far has been unable to gather all the venerable Arab capitals under the slogan of the current stage's challenges, say?

HA'ARETZ Correction to Likud Guidelines

TA1705072790

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 17 May on page A2, in an unattributed "document" supplies the following correction to the item headlined "Guidelines of Likud Government Led by Shamir," published in the 16 May Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 13:

"Due to a regrettable mistake, yesterday HA'ARETZ published—under the headline: "The Guidelines of the Likud Government Headed by Shamir"—the guidelines drafted by the Labor Party in the framework of its attempt to establish a narrow-based government under its leadership. HA'ARETZ apologizes for the mistake and is now publishing in full the guidelines for the government headed by Shamir, as drafted by Minister Moshe Nisim, with the assistance of Justice Minister Dan Meridor."

HA'ARETZ adds that these guidelines were formulated following "discussions between the Likud and its potential coalition partners," stating that if "the Labor Party should wish to join this government some day, it will have to accept them in letter and in spirit." (correcting party affiliation)

Comparision of Likud Government Guidelines

WA1705173090

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 17 May on page A2 carries its version of the Likud Government Guidelines. This HA'ARETZ text has been compared with the MA'ARIV version published in the 16 May Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 15, and is found to be similar in content, with greater detail on the social and economic aspects of the government guidelines and providing the following additions in the political sphere: Column two, seventh full paragraph, last sentence reads: The government will call on Egypt to fulfill its part in the peace treaty with Israel, including its commitments according to the Camp David agreements, and to give the peace treaty the meaning and content apparent in its articles, its spirit, and the intentions of the signatory parties. (providing supplementary material) Column two, eighth full paragraph, only sentence reads:...the United States and Israel and will endeavor to expand them in all areas, including strategic cooperation, and will take action to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, establish diplomatic relations with the PRC, and continue the momentum of reestablishing diplomatic relations with East Europe and other countries. (providing supplementary material) Column two, ninth full paragraph, last sentence reads:...the Gaza District, neither as voters nor as candidates. [new paragraph]—Settlement in all. (providing supplementary material)

Al-Qasim: U.S., USSR Against Arab Summit

JN1705074590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 May 90 Second Edition pp 18, 14

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that some major powers and Israel are making many attempts to obstruct the convening of the Arab summit conference. Addressing representatives of the local press, al-Qasim said that convening the Arab summit is not in the interest of the United States or the USSR. The United States does not want the Arabs to adopt a stance in support of Iraq, while the USSR fears that the summit will discuss the issue of the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Al-Qasim added that Israel's main objective is to end the Palestine question and all talk about it. It knows that this can be achieved through a comprehensive aggression and that this aggression should be against Iraq in particular because it is the only Arab country that has proved to have the power of endurance, and in view of the types of weapons it possesses. He noted that Israel fears the power of endurance, not the chemical weapons.

Al-Qasim said that Israel resorts to all methods to exhaust Iraq and is continuing its campaign against Iraq because Iraq used its military power to force Iran to accept the cease-fire and Security Council Resolution 598.

Marwan al-Qasim described the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine as the most dangerous issue facing the Arabs since 1947 because the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine might reach two million, and this of course will be at the expense of sending the Palestinians to Jordan.

On Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the foreign minister said that Jordanian-Palestinian ties are stronger than any other ties. And this is Jordan's position always. He affirmed that the disengagement decision does not at all mean Jordan's relinquishment of its commitments and responsibilities vis-a-vis the Palestine question and the Palestinian people.

Marwan al-Qasim said that supporting Jordan is an Arab responsibility because of its pan-Arab role.

Arab Professionals Issue Statement on Conference

JN1605102690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 May 90 Second Edition p 9

[Text] Amman—The Conference of Arab Professional Associations, held in Amman from 12 to 14 May, concluded its work yesterday. The conference issued a final statement and proposed it as a document for the Arab summit, which, it said, must be held to confront the dangers of Soviet Jewish emigration. In its recommendations and resolutions, the final statement expressed the need also to convene an Arab popular conference to support the intifadah and confront the dangers of Jewish emigration. The text of the statement follows:

In response to the Jordanian professional associations' call for a meeting in Amman to discuss and deliberate on the dangers, challenges, and tasks posed by recent international, Arab, and Palestinian developments—namely, opening the doors to Jewish emigration from the USSR, Socialist bloc countries, certain Latin American countries, and Ethiopia, and directing hordes of Jewish emigrants from these countries in a planned and systematic way to the occupied Palestinian Arab territory as part of the Zionist plan to invade and seize this territory, uproot and expel the remaining Palestinians from their lands, pave the way for further Zionist expansion into other Arab territories—delegations representing Arab professional associations from various Arab countries, including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Kuwait, UAE, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine gathered in steadfast Amman, the twin city of uprising Jerusalem, to participate in the work of the Arab Professional Associations Conference.

The conference was held especially to examine the dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation and to mobilize the Arab masses to confront these dangers and to support the Palestinian people's intifadah for national liberation and the restoration of usurped Palestinian national rights, including the rights of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem on Palestinian national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. The conference was also convened to secure every form of support for the Jordanian Arab people, the twin of the Palestinian people, to ensure their steadfastness along the confrontation line, to enable them to give all the support required by the intifadah masses, and to express solidarity with steadfast Jordan now that it has become a direct target of the imperialist-Zionist enemy, which seeks to colonize Arab territories and enslave their peoples.

The conference was held under royal patronage at the Cultural Palace in Amman on Saturday morning, 12 May 1990. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, representing his majesty the king, graciously opened the conference. The prime minister affirmed in his speech the importance of holding such a conference at this particular time, saying it was particularly important because it brought together Arab professionals from different sectors and sought to confront the dangers of Jewish emigration before they became very serious.

During its four sessions, the conference discussed the speeches delivered at the opening session and the following three working papers:

1. A working paper on Jewish emigration presented by Tahir al-Masri, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives.

2. A working paper on human rights and the Palestinian people's right to repatriation presented by Muhammad Fa'iq, secretary general of the Arab Human Rights Organization.
3. A working paper on backing the intifadah presented by Muhammad al-Rumayhi, chief editor of the [Kuwaiti] magazine AL-'ARABI.

The papers were discussed by scores of Arab delegations which participated in the conference. The heated discussions showed that the conferees, in their capacity as representatives and leaders of the Arab popular professional movement, understood the importance of the subjects under discussion, the seriousness of the current phase, and the Arab popular organizations' readiness to shoulder their responsibilities of mobilizing and immediately directing them toward organized action to confront the dangers and challenges imposed by the current phase. Participants in the conference also stressed the great importance of the symbolic "March of Return," organized by the Jordanian professional associations as one of the main activities of the conference as it clearly expresses the will of the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland to adhere to the Palestinian people's right to their land and identity. It also strongly indicates the Arab people's immense eagerness to involve themselves materially and morally in the Palestinian Arab people's brave struggle to confront the Zionist enemy.

The Arab masses also believe that the nature of the current stage, the balance of powers, and the size of the challenges make it incumbent on the Arab nation to promote the forms of support for the Palestinian Arab people and their brave intifadah by mobilizing the Arab masses' energies and their huge potentials for the confrontational battle against the continued Zionist-imperialist designs in order to enable the Palestinian Arab people to achieve their goals and regain their rights.

It is very important for the popular, political, professional, and educational organizations and trade unions in every Arab country to draw up integrated and continuous programs to organize support for the intifadah and mobilize the various activities of the Arab popular sectors to carry out various missions in order to continue effective communication between the militant efforts of the homeland's masses inside the occupied homeland and the Arab masses outside it.

The conference also stressed the importance of comprehensive coordination over this issue in each country and at the pan-Arab level. Information should also be exchanged continuously and periodically by organs involved in administering programs designed to support the intifadah and to develop these programs in line with the phases and forms of national struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland.

In view of the seriousness of the current stage due to the wide opening of the door to Jewish immigration to the Palestinian homeland and the occupied Arab territories, the conference stressed the need to organize a general Arab popular conference to emphasize the importance of the move by Arab professionals and trade unions toward establishing a firm organizational framework on the pan-Arab level for the Arab trade union groupings. It should also stress the importance of the leading role of Arab professionals in mobilizing Arab energies and acquiring, consolidating, and protecting technology.

Participants in the conference hailed the Palestinian masses' uprising in the occupied Arab territories and affirmed that the battle being waged by these masses against the Zionist-imperialist invasion is a battle for all the Arab masses. They also expressed their deep desire to participate in any way to reinforce the militant efforts on the part of the uprising people to enable them to regain their usurped rights, particularly their right to repatriation, self-determination on their national soil, and the establishment of their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The conference warned that one of the central aims of the new Jewish immigration is the completion of the current phase of the Zionist project of absorbing the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, uprooting their inhabitants and expelling them outside their fatherland, subverting Arab societies and destroying their national unity by peddling suspect plans such as the alternative homeland, which is a prelude to the later phase of pouncing on the Arab territories surrounding Palestine, swallowing them up and dominating their natural resources and wealth, particularly water. Hence the importance of supporting the confrontation states, especially Jordan, the twin sister of Palestine. Such support will directly promote the general aim of backing the intifadah.

The conference paused to consider the fierce campaigns which the imperialist states, headed by the United States and the United Kingdom, are launching against Iraq and Libya as they endeavor to obtain and develop advanced technology to serve the Arab nation's legitimate aims of progress and development in this domain. The conference deplored these campaigns and strongly denounced the sinful aggression on the al-Rabitah factory in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The conference voiced great satisfaction and appreciation for the unity steps undertaken by the Yemeni brothers. While valuing such steps, the conference asserted its firm conviction that the Arab nation's strength and status in the international community is contingent on the Arab peoples' ability to overcome the plagues of division and dissension and build the united democratic Arab society in terms of both substance and aspirations.

The conference voiced full sympathy with the Lebanese Arab people in their present ordeal. The conference valued the continuous struggle of these people for rebuilding nationalist, democratic Lebanon, liberating its occupied territory, and enabling it to play its cherished role in Arab and international arenas.

The conference strongly condemned the flagrant violations of human rights in fraternal Sudan and expressed its greatest sympathy with the Sudanese people in their struggle to get rid of repression and tyranny. The conference appealed to all Arab official and popular organizations and international bodies to ask the Sudanese authorities to completely halt such violations and release all political detainees, including the detainees of the Sudanese professional unions.

The conference highly appreciated the current changes in Jordan on the path of democracy and public freedoms. The conference affirmed that consolidating and promoting these changes will contribute toward building a strong, impregnable Jordan, capable of carrying out its tasks on the national and pan-Arab levels efficiently and effectively, and forming a tributary and support for the intifadah. Hence, the importance of supporting Jordan and extending to it full Arab assistance to enhance its ability to confront the looming Zionist threats.

The conference saluted the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab masses in the beloved occupied Golan and affirms that this steadfastness is the first step toward enlistment in the comprehensive intifadah of the Arab masses in the occupied territory.

The conference also saluted the popular movement of the Arab people of Egypt in their undaunted resistance of the normalization measures.

In conclusion, the conference voiced gratitude and thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for his patronage of the conference and greatly thanked His Excellency Prime Minister Mudar Badran for opening the conference.

The conference highly appreciated the Jordanian professional associations for issuing the call for and hosting this conference, and for organizing the popular "March of Return" toward Palestine.

The conference decided to send a cable of support and backing to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The conference reiterated its backing for the Palestinian people's struggle and brave intifadah to realize their aims of return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The conference also decided to send the conference's statement to the Arab summit conference during its upcoming meeting.

Following thorough discussions, the participants in the conference agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations.

Jewish emigration to Palestine:

The conferees have noticed that the emigration of Jews from various countries to Palestine has come at a stage when the international arena is witnessing very grave developments and fundamental imbalances in favor of the imperialist camp, which is hostile to the Arab nation. Therefore, the conferees would like to underscore the importance and exigency of quick action on the popular and official levels to face the threats and challenges concomitant with these developments. In this regard, the conferees stress the following points:

a. The need to convene an Arab summit as soon as possible, with the participation of kings and presidents from all the Arab countries in order to crystallize a comprehensive Arab strategy to face the dangers of the Jewish emigration, which encompass not only the Palestinian Arab people but also the Arab peoples, their future, homelands, and resources.

b. The need for immediate action to eliminate all obstacles to the formation of the eastern front, in addition to adopting all the necessary steps which contribute to the building of this front to make it absorb all the Arab energies and forces. This will render the front an effective means to serve the comprehensive Arab strategy in its opposition to the imperialist Zionist entity and its expansionist schemes in the Arab homeland. All this is for the sake of liberation and the restoration of the usurped national rights of the Palestinian people.

c. The need for immediate action to forge a unified popular and official Arab stance capable of dealing with the various countries that are allowing their citizens to emigrate to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. The measures taken by these countries in this regard should be considered a hostile act against the Palestinian and Arab peoples. There is a need, therefore, to move on the international level in order to explain the hostile dimensions of these measures and demand their change; to mobilize Arab energies and capabilities to influence the world public opinion in these countries, specifically to force them to respect the rights of the Palestinian individual in particular and the Arab in general, and not to allow infringement on these rights, whether directly or indirectly. In this regard, the conference recommends the formation of popular and official Arab delegations to contact all the countries that are allowing their Jewish citizens to emigrate, to contact the Jews of these countries to explain the hostile dimensions implied in their emigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, and to explain the position of the Arab peoples in this regard.

The conferees also strongly criticized the policy of the United States and that of the imperialist countries revolving around the U.S. axis, which have put strong pressures to open the doors of emigration to the Jews from various countries and partly financed their emigration to Palestine.

The rights of the Palestinian and the Arab individual:

The conferees emphasized the strong link between unleashing democratic liberties and respect of the rights of the Arab individual in every Arab country on the one hand, and the mission of building the Arab future, achieving concrete development, and facing threats and

dangers on the other. The conferees noticed, furthermore, that opposition to the new Zionist danger and restoration of the usurped national rights cannot be achieved by an Arab individual whose dignity is tarnished, whose will is fettered, and whose freedoms are usurped. Therefore, while hailing and highly valuing the democratic changes which overtook some of the Arab countries, the conferees call for unleashing democratic freedoms and respecting the rights of the individual in all these countries without exception because this will serve the Arab individual, reinforce his role in building and protecting his capabilities, and enable him to carry out his civilized role towards humanity at large.

The conferees also asserted that the Palestinian individual's right to repatriation to his land is a natural, inalienable, and safeguarded right which is irrefutable and not subject to negotiation. In this regard, the conferees emphasized the importance of the media highlighting and giving prominence to this issue internationally, in a wide-ranging, consistent, and unceasing manner, taking into consideration that this issue forms the cornerstone of the Arab strategy that will face the Zionist entity and its continuous aggression on the national identity of the Palestinian Arab people and their rights to their homeland.

Support of the Intifadah:

The conferees asserted that the raging popular intifadah of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories is the vanguard of the action of the Arab masses designed to face the Zionist imperialist scheme and stand up to the current threats and challenges. Based on the above, the conferees stress the following: The paramount importance of strict adherence to the resolutions adopted in the intifadah's summit in order to support the intifadah give it precedence as regards Arab support, and not to delay the funds allocated to it in view of its importance and role in making available the means of steadfastness. They also stress the need for the continuation and escalation of the intifadah.

Irish Ambassador Leaves After Talks on Hostage

NC1605192090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] The Irish ambassador accredited to Lebanon and other countries in the region left Beirut at noon today for Larnaca, Cyprus, after holding contacts in Beirut concerning the fate of Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

'Awn: U.S. Supplying Arms to Lebanese Forces

NC1605190590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has accused Washington of supplying arms to the Lebanese Forces [LF]. He said that the weapons Washington is providing the LF are destructive. He said that this represents a low point in U.S. policy.

At a news conference today, 'Awn said that the goal of the plot is to undermine Lebanon. He said that Ja'ja' is part of the game and that he is getting bogged down and dragging the people down with him. He pointed out that all the crossing points in the areas under his forces' control are open, and accused the Lebanese Forces of closing their side of these crossing points.

'Awn expects that a change for the better in the situation will take place this summer, but not a comprehensive solution. He renewed his call for a referendum, saying that this will become an established fact. He said that, if no international assistance is provided for holding the referendum, then we will reach a form of negotiation with the parties to the conflict. He accused the legitimate government of being responsible for the collapse of the Lebanese currency due to its extravagant behavior at the Summerland Hotel and Paris. He played down the effect of the fighting in the eastern area on the collapse of the Lebanese currency and rise of the dollar.

Crossing Opened With Syrian-Controlled Area

NC1605090390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] The steps that General Michel 'Awn is taking to establish links with Syria's allies clearly show that he intends to stay in B'abda Palace for the longest possible time and is trying to create a mini-state for himself that derives its nourishment from Syrian channels.

'Awn started out by coordinating matters with Syria's allies so that they could supply him with weapons, ammunition, and fuel. 'Awn then closed crossing points within the eastern areas and began to link the al-Matn areas under his control with areas under Syrian control by means of crossing points. The aim was to facilitate the movement of his supporters and those of [former Lebanese Forces Commander Elie] Hubayqah and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party across these areas. This provides unequivocal proof of the relations, that are now quite public, between 'Awn and Syrian allies who have sent their gunmen and members in large numbers to the al-Matn areas.

In order to consolidate 'Awn's ties with Syria's allies, create a mini-state for 'Awn, and prolong his stay in B'abda Palace, the al-Duwwar-al-'Ayrun-Dhuhur-al-Shuwayr road was opened at the B'abdat intersection yesterday. 'Awn's engineering teams removed the earth barriers and mines on their side while the Syrian Social Nationalist Party elements removed barriers on their side. This road will be open for traffic today, thus facilitating the movement of ammunition, weapons, fuel, and gunmen across the earlier divide. Meanwhile, the citizens in the eastern areas have been unable, for the eighth day in a row, to travel between Nahr al-Mawt and Nahr al-Kalb.

Media sources also speak of earnest exchanges that are under way to link the area under 'Awn's control with West Beirut through opening al-Kafa'at-al-Murayjah crossing or Galerie Sim'an-Mar Mikha'il crossing, thus linking 'Awn's areas with areas under Hizballah's control.

'Awn in Stronger Position After Arms Supplies

PM1605134590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Exclusive for AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT From Beirut: Al-Hirawi Discussed in Damascus Hubayqah's Arming of 'Awn"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—While the Iraqi authorities continue to make a new attempt to stop the ongoing war in east Beirut, Lebanese leading and political circles continue to show profound concern about the arms and ammunition delivered by land to General Michel ['Awn], especially following U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy's announcement that his country raised the subject with Damascus.

Informed sources in west Beirut have said that during his recent visit to the Syrian capital President Ilyas al-Hirawi raised the question of the arms being delivered to 'Awn. And Damascus reiterated its full support for President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Lebanese authorities.

The sources added that Syrian circles believe that present relations between Elie Hubayqah, former leader of the Lebanese Forces, and 'Awn are bound to weaken Samir Ja'ja', thus enabling President al-Hirawi to speak to him from a better position. The sources said that the same circles consider that the position of Hubayqah and former President Sulayman Franjiyah—interpreted as sympathy with 'Awn—is the result of internal considerations.

The sources said that al-Hirawi returned from Damascus with the impression that Ja'ja''s inclusion in the government is not possible at present. Others, however, have come to the conclusion that an al-Hirawi move into B'abda Palace is not imminent.

Sources opposed to 'Awn in East Beirut say that he has made great strides toward concluding an alliance between him, Franjiyah, Hubayqah, and National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un in a bid to isolate Ja'ja' on the Christian scene.

The sources added that over the past two weeks 'Awn has received 11 rocket launchers and more than 5,000 shells, in addition to a quantity of fuel, via the areas where Hubayqah's supporters are widespread. And the arms consignment was delivered to 'Awn by sea to the al-Awza'i beach, where armed elements assumed the task of smuggling them to him via the contact lines, specifically via the southern suburb.

The sources point out that the military personnel, among them officers, who left 'Awn's brigades some time ago and headed for their villages in north Lebanon have recently returned to their positions in these brigades after they received "advice" to that effect.

Military experts believe that the arms and ammunition received by 'Awn—in terms of type and size—are not sufficient to help him to settle the situation, though they are sufficient to prevent his collapse. They also add that 'Awn now seems to be in a better military and political position than a few weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Shelling in Eastern Areas; Cease-Fire Reached

NC1605181890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpts] Al-Ashrafiyah was the target of 82-mm and 120-mm mortar fire this afternoon. The bombardment, which included the area of Hotel Dieu Hospital and the Olivetti area up to al-Suyufi, came from al-Tahwitah and Furn al-Shubbak. 'Awn's tanks participated in the bombardment which caused fires in houses and cars, including a residential building in al-Suyufi area.

Clashes have also taken place on the al-Nasirah, al-Barjawi, and al-Tibbiyah combat lines. Tanks fired on al-Suyufi from al-Tahwitah. Hayy al-Siryan has also come under mortar and tank fire from positions held by 'Awn's gunmen in al-Tahwitah.

The coastal and central areas of Kasrawan also came under violent shelling from 'Awn's gunmen's positions, but the shelling has now abated. In the latest incident, two shells fell on the al-Nab'ah area and sniper fire occurred in the vicinity of al-Sayyidah Church in Sinn al-Fil.

'Awn's gunmen's violent shelling has caused a huge fire in an apartment building in the al-Suyufi area. Residents are trapped between the raging fire and the continuous shelling of the area. Civil defense teams are trying to rescue the residents despite the continuing bombardment. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Mediation Committee member Abbot Bulus Nu'man announced a short time ago that, as a result of his contacts with the commands of the two parties, an agreement has been reached for a comprehensive cease-fire on all combat lines as of 2100 this evening.

According to information provided by a Voice of Lebanon reporter, the agreement covers all combat lines in Beirut, al-Matn coast, and Kasrawan. The agreement also stipulates that the two parties will not move their forces and will halt all military operations on the ground and provides that the Mediation Committee should be informed of any security violation on all combat lines so that it can address the violation. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Sends Memorandum to Tripartite Committee

NC1705103390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss sent a memorandum to the Arab Tripartite Committee today on the eve of its scheduled meeting in Jeddah. The memorandum calls for the protection of the al-Ta'if agreement by stressing that this agreement was reached only after Syria, which has a distinctive role in Lebanon, became such an effective partner in the dialogue that it may be described figuratively as a fourth member of the Tripartite Committee.

In his memorandum, Prime Minister al-Huss emphasized that matters should not be pushed in the wrong direction; that is, in dealing with the issue of the special summit, there should not be any attempt to disregard the vital Syrian role, which is indispensable in any effort to implement a solution.

Prime Minister al-Huss pointed out that it is hoped the aid to Lebanon will enable the army and the internal security forces to be equipped and supplied with weapons, and will permit the gaps in the international stand to be closed, particularly the stand of the Vatican. The prime minister emphasized the need to strengthen the state's capacity to reconstruct what the war has destroyed, particularly in the vital humanitarian, social, economic, and structural fields. He called for doubling Arab pressure on world society to enable Lebanon to implement Security Council Resolution 425 pertaining to the South.

Al-Asad on Elections, World Changes, Arab Future

JN1605130490 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 0940 GMT 16 May 90

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the 10th General Congress of the National Federation of Syrian Students in Damascus—live]

[Excerpts] My sons, members of the 10th General Congress of the National Federation of Syrian Students; comrades, ladies and gentlemen. I greet you all from my heart [applause] and warmly welcome the guests to this congress and wish them a happy visit in our country. [applause]

Students, young men and women, I am pleased to meet with you on the opening of your congress and on all other occasions. [applause] You are the source of happiness to every home and the hope of every family and of the nation in general. All eyes are on you, all hearts love you, and all hopes are pinned on you just as eyes have looked, hearts have loved, and hopes have been pinned on previous generations of students. [applause] [passage omitted]

Dear students, elections were held and your comrades and colleagues in universities and colleges elected you to this congress. These days, hectic activity is taking place in the country to elect the People's Assembly members from among several thousand candidates to shoulder their responsibilities. Today, as in the past, we are eager to see the citizens exercise their freedom by voicing their views and by electing those whom they think are worthy of their trust.

We have always endeavored—from the establishment of the first elected people's assembly after 1970—to establish the best formulas to help the citizens express their views about the candidates in complete freedom. [applause] We have always tried to expand participation [in government]. Despite the fact that in many countries elections are held on a party basis; despite the fact that many in the world consider this method to be more advanced, more effective, more democratic, and more conducive to national unity; despite the fact that many in Syria are convinced that this is the best method; and despite the existence of parties in our country, we are of the opinion that the phase through which our country is passing is not the most suitable for implementing this electoral system. We have reconciled the features of a party electoral system with those of a system based on personal grounds. We have always believed that non-party candidates should have a place in the electoral lists. These candidates will, this time, constitute one third of the Assembly members.

The current activities of the people and candidates all over the country demonstrate the vitality of our people and their insistence on their right to voice their opinion. It is only natural for the citizen to insist on his right by giving his vote to those who deserve his trust and to withhold the vote from those who do not. This is not only a matter of right. It is a question of right and duty. These two go together; one cannot go without the other. We are dealing with a constitutional, representative establishment which is exercising legislative powers and monitoring the activities of other state institutions. Its work will reflect on every Syrian citizen. While it is true that the Assembly member is elected from a certain constituency, the moment he is elected, he becomes a representative of every citizen, discussing and making decisions on all issues for all constituencies, not only his own. And because of this comprehensive nature, it is the citizen's right and duty to both himself and the people to voice his opinion.

I am not complaining of citizens' shortcomings. There are no shortcomings, because the activities are extensive. However, I wanted to make clear, albeit briefly, the importance of this issue. It is very important for us to be aware of this issue on all levels and in all areas and to understand its theoretical and practical dimensions.

We want to live in genuine freedom through formulas originating in our own country and based on the will of our people. These formulas should entrench our national unity and deepen the national feeling, promote people's interests, and enhance people's creativity and energies. In our formulas, we benefit from the experiments of others, but we never copy what others do.

These are our people's aspirations and we must always support them. If we do not act on the basis of our people's desires and aspirations in our words and deeds, whether we are among the official authorities or not, we will not belong to these people and will not be working in their interests. If someone's deeds and words are based on selfishness, he will be losing the most important part of his patriotism and humanism.

Everybody can make wrong as well as right judgments, but making intentional and continuous mistakes or refraining from searching for what is right is something completely different. Let us put the interests of the nation ahead of us, and let us say what we should in light of these interests. Let us always remember the sacrifices of our people and their struggle for the homeland and the nation. Let us remember the efforts, money, and blood our people are providing for the sake of the homeland and the nation—principles and interests, future and destiny.

Over two decades, and despite all difficulties—which were great and numerous—no one could impose their will on our country or force us to abandon any part of our will. This is how our country will continue in the future [applause]. So, let us build it strongly in all aspects; let us build it in our souls and minds before anything else. What is coming seems to be more dangerous and far more destructive. And those who do not prepare themselves to counter the approaching deadly monsters will be destroyed by these monsters. We, by God's help and the people's will, will not be destroyed. [applause]

There is something new in the world that we must not ignore or neglect. Over decades, the world had been stable due to certain balances. But important changes

within these balances have taken place. This changed the foundations of the existing stability, and created disturbances and an unsteady movement toward an uncertain final destination. The world is in turmoil, and no one knows how long this will continue or what the final outcome will be. But at some point in the future, the world will certainly calm down, and matters will settle. It is impossible, as has always been the case, to know how long the period of stability will last. Human history has shown that the period of world stability changes from one age to another, and even from one phase to another within the same age. The important question is: What will happen from now until the next period of stability? What kind of sparks will spread in the world? And what danger will this bring to nations?

Certainly, there are sparks, and there is potential danger, but it is impossible to determine this danger decisively. And what will happen during the period of stability? This period is historically characterized by the existence of major alliances that create an equilibrium. The new, forthcoming alliances will be different from the old ones. They will search for vital aspects. These aspects take different shapes from time to time and according to the nature and philosophy of the allied forces. The required vital aspect may be political, military, economic, or something else. It may be some of these things, or all of them together. But the result is that the search for vital aspects requires, at a minimum, the usurpation of a part of the will of peoples, and, at its maximum level, the usurpation of the total will of peoples. The difference between partial and total usurpation, however, is theoretical, because those who have half of their will usurped, as it were, cannot exercise the second half of their will, because the will is a unified whole, not assembled pieces. [applause]

When the political decisionmaking of a country is captured as required by the vital interests of some alliance, this country cannot make military, economic, or cultural decisions except in light of the usurped political decision. And when the military decisionmaking of a country is captured to meet a vital need of some alliance, this country cannot exercise political, economic, or cultural decisionmaking except in light of the military decision, which was taken to be used by the authorities of the alliance. This applies to all other aspects.

Alliances have always achieved their vital interests at the expense of weak countries and regions. This always meant colonialism, though in different manifestations. So, where does the Arab nation stand vis-a-vis world changes and open future prospects? The Arabs, more than others, should look carefully into what Zionism is currently doing on the international scene, and what it may do in the future. They should remember what Zionism has done since the beginning of this century, especially during World Wars I and II and the period in between.

Arab minds and eyes should not be blind to Israel's ambitions in the Arab homeland. This issue should not be disregarded at any moment.

The Arabs, as a group, have not done anything to face the future. They have not initiated anything to deal with the new world. In fact, they are in a state of confusion and mental, psychological, and political chaos. On more than one occasion, marginal events have taken precedence over the essentials, and the embellished form of the book has taken precedence over its scientific content.

Syria has called on others, cautioned them, and conferred with them. Syria is still doing so; perhaps the need calls for more efforts. Until a better Arab awareness arises regarding the dimensions of what is taking place, Syria, in its policies and actions, will continue to take into consideration these international dimensions as it views events, confident that it will remain the national and pan-Arab stronghold in which its citizens and Arab citizens in general can place their confidence. [applause]

Still, the slogan of Arab solidarity, which Syria has raised and affirmed for a long time, will continue to receive the attention it deserves from us. However, some people are not pleased with this, for a reason or reasons on which we will not comment at this time. The important thing to us and to others is that Syria's stands and words should be understood as they really are. Syria will neither appease nor bargain with anyone on principles. [prolonged applause]

Syria will not appease or bargain with anyone on principles. It will call what is right right and what is wrong wrong, especially when the matter relates to pan-Arab issues. This is the way we are, and this is the way we will remain. This is Syria's pure pan-Arab role, in the past, present, and future. [applause] This is Syria's pure pan-Arab role, in the past, present, and future. This pure pan-Arab role, about which people are honest with themselves, is what everyone needs, and what serves us all in our Arab homeland.

Since we are talking about world changes, we must assert that the USSR remains the firm friend of Syria and the Arab nation. [applause] No weakness or slackness in the march of our long-standing friendship ties which bind us have taken place. During my recent visit, moreover, I was received with cordiality and warmth, and it was in an atmosphere of brotherliness and comradeship that our talks took place. There has been understanding and identical viewpoints between us regarding the vast range of issues we have discussed. You have read the statement disseminated by TASS agency which confirms this. And despite the preoccupation of President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership with internal issues, especially resulting from the new approach of the perestroyka policy, they did not ignore external issues, especially those related to their friends, particularly in this region. They support Arab rights strongly and advocate the international conference on the basis of pertinent UN resolutions. As for our bilateral cooperation, it is continuing as

always. We will pay no attention to attempts to create disturbances, which take place from time to time by this or that party, as long as we, in a practical sense, do not see any manifestations of these disturbances.

As I have previously said: We are not a people who sacrifice their friendship or act in an ungrateful manner. The USSR is a friend that extended support to us and stood by our just struggle at all times. We will be honest and loyal to it the way it has been toward us. [applause]

The Soviet Union understands the Arab concern over Soviet Jewish immigration. This issue was given due attention during our Moscow talks. The Soviet leadership affirmed that it will tackle this issue in light of the ideas we exchanged, and they will reconsider it and deal with it—that is, with the immigration issue—within the context of Arab rights, since Arab rights are part of human rights in general. At the same time, Arab rights are the rights of people who own the land that is threatened by settlement. I salute President Gorbachev, the Soviet leadership, and the friendly Soviet peoples. [applause]

O brothers and sons: We have sons and brothers in the occupied Arab territories [applause] struggling against the occupiers, displaying strength and courage and bearing cruel circumstances in their struggle. They are motivated by a sacred duty which they strive to perform. This struggle is also prompted by an awareness on their part that the occupation cannot be removed unless this duty is performed, and unless blood is shed—because nothing other than blood can do the job. This has been confirmed by the facts of life. O brothers, forge ahead bearing in mind that the road ahead is long, and that the sacrifices entailed are immense. Rest assured that the nation supports you and that this nation has an indefatigable willingness to make sacrifices. This readiness is commensurate with the requirements of our battle against the continuing Israeli aggression and against Israel's covetousness regarding Arab soil.

May God bless you and your struggle, you brothers in Palestine, southern Lebanon, and Syrian Golan. [applause] We are aware that the road ahead is long. Yet, we trust that the break of the dawn is coming, even though a delay may be entailed. [applause]

O students, male and female youths: Your student organization, the National Federation of Syrian Students, occupies an important position among our popular organizations which constitute the first echelon in our national struggle for the advancement and prosperity of the homeland, for enhancing its socialist structure, for bolstering the collective and cooperative spirit on its soil, for developing a sense of responsibility, for strengthening the sense of national belonging, and for venerating the concept of martyrdom for the sake of enhancing the status of the homeland. [applause]

The National Federation of Syrian Students, through its institutions and the specialized institutions in which it participates as a representative of students, is playing an important role in developing the educational process on the national level. Besides, it is playing an important role in developing the military capabilities of the country through the university military training provided and the university military training camps. It is to be recalled that a law on the university military training was passed on the initiative and at the urging of the National Federation of Syrian Students. [applause] This bill was passed on 2 January 1974. Since then, we have felt the greatly positive results of this important initiative. Moreover, the Federation is playing a significant union role and following up on all the issues concerning students, such as those pertaining to university textbooks, university housing, student loans, university clothing, production and military camps, and other activities. Once again, I would like to say that the president of the Federation mentioned many of the duties being performed and roles being played by the National Federation of Syrian Students.

Furthermore, the Federation has an important political role in the life of the country. This role is being played through the structures of the Federation, through the party and frontal organizations of the Federation, through the hierarchical relationships among the Federation's organizations and party leaderships, and also through the presence of Federation representatives within higher party and official institutions. I am not here enumerating all the great and numerous tasks of the Federation. I am only referring to the important role being played by the Federation and to how this affects the domestic front in general. O brothers and sons, your role is important in the various aspects of national life. This role enriches this life, lends it more vitality, and renders it more capable of fortifying this homeland, developing and strengthening its status internally and externally. Let us continue our march. Let us play more effective roles to harden this homeland, bring about its prosperity, and make life on its soil the most joyous and happiest life. Greetings to the guests of the congress coming from fraternal and friendly countries. [applause] Greetings to every martyr and to the relatives of every martyr. [applause] Martyrs are the most generous among those living on earth and the noblest human beings. [applause] Greetings to you, heartfelt greetings to every female and male student [applause] in our dear country. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Scientific-Technical Protocol With GDR Renewed

JN1605191090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 May (SANA)—An agreement was signed here today between Syria and the GDR calling for the renewal of the protocol for scientific and technical cooperation signed between the two countries in 1985 for another two years—1990 and 1991.

The agreement was signed for the Syrian side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, assistant planning minister, and for the GDR side by Josef Lohen [name as received],

the commercial attache at the GDR Embassy in Damascus. The protocol calls for providing experts and training services to national Syrian cadres in the fields of veterinary, textile, pharmaceutical, and geological industries, the cement industry, mills, and agricultural equipment.

Al-Asad Receives Sudanese Minister, Message

JN1605151690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1515 today Sudanese Interior Minister Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah. The meeting was also attended by the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus 'Isam al-Rashid Abu-Judayrah and 'Uthman al-Nafi', head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

Maj. Gen. Abu-Salih delivered a message to President al-Asad from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan. The president gave Abu-Salih an answer message to carry back with him.

Talks centered on the situation in Sudan and the region.

Minister, Delegation Leave

JN1705095790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and Interior Minister, and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a three-day visit to Syria. During the visit, he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese NSRCC.

Abu-Salih was seen off at Damascus' southern entrance by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah.

Afghanistan

Constitution Commission Amends, Repeals Articles

LD1505174990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The commission formed to draft amendments to the constitution continued its work today under the chairmanship of 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president and chairman of the commission.

Articles 13-75 of the Constitution were broadly, comprehensively and freely discussed and debated. The commission agreed to amend Article 20 of the Constitution. In the draft amendment the following sentences have been added: Private sector investment by for utilizing forests, pastures, sources of energy, mines, and the trading of communication means, are permissible in accordance with the law.

In addition to government banks, insurance companies, and air transport the establishment of mixed bank, insurance and air transport companies are permissible in the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with the law.

The operation of foreign banks and insurance companies is permissible in the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with the law.

Moreover, the commission has also agreed to repeal Articles 23 and 26 of the Constitution and insert and eliminate some of the wording and sentences in Article 27, 56, and 66.

Further Amendments Made

LD1605184690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] The commission on drafting amendments to the constitution continued its work today under the chairmanship of 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president and chairman of this commission.

Reporting this news, a spokesman of the commission told the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent that this commission freely and openly considered and debated Articles 1 to 100 of the Constitution and expressed their view on the necesary amendments to some articles. The source added that the following amendment was drafted to Article 79 of the Constitution:

The people's delegates to the Wolasi Jirga [People's Assembly] will be elected for a five-year legislative term in universal, equal, free, secret, and direct elections in accordance with the provision of the law.

The source added that during yesterday's work the commission approved the necessary amendments adding some words to Articles 92, 95, 96, 97 and 99 and erasing some words from Articles 81, 88, 89, 94, 96 and 97 of the Constitution.

In drafting an amendment to Article 100 of the Constitution the following text has been added:

Those subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan or their spouses who do not have Afghan parents, cannot be included in the composition of the Council of Ministers.

Mujahidin Commanders Reject Imposed Solution

BK1605112690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 May 90 p 8

[Bureau report]

[Text] Peshawar, May 15—A meeting of some of the prominent Mujahidin Commanders was held in Paktia Province [and] has warned that any Afghan solution which was reached without their consent would be outrightly rejected.

The three-day Shura of Mujahidin Commanders, held somewhere in Paktia from May 7-9, said any formula which violated the principles of their 12-year-old Jihad won't be accepted either. It reminded that the Afghan resistance began when an illegitimate regime was imposed on the Afghan people and millions of Afghans were forced to migrate.

The Mujahidin Shura also pledged to bring about better coordination among Mujahidin on all fronts and forge military cooperation among all Commanders. A commission was also set up to invite all Mujahidin Commanders throughout Afghanistan to another bigger Shura in a bid to find a solution acceptable to all Afghans.

Reaction to Former King's 11 May Statement

Rabbani Rejects Role for King

PM1605154990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 90 p 9

[Interview with Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, "reconstruction minister in the interim mujahidin government and leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan," by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaydan] Zahir Shah broke his silence recently and announced his readiness to play a notable and effective role in the Afghan issue. He is also ready to mediate between the mujahidin and the parties concerned. What is your view of that statement?

[Rabbani] I think the lack of initiative on the mujahidin government's part prompted some people and some states to adopt stances and make proposals which they would not have contemplated in the past. If we had seized the initiative and opened up areas of work and allocated responsibilities, neither Zahir Shah nor others would have adopted such stances or made such statements. That man has achieved nothing new. In fact he conspired with various quarters against the mujahidin.

They want to finish off the mujahidin inside the country. The truth—and I have informed many people of it—is that many people would be mistaken if they were to think that a change has occurred in the Afghan people's view of the jihad and the mujahidin. The people cannot change their position that easily. As for what is being said about unrest inside the camps and the evacuees' discontent at the situation and their desire to extricate themselves from that situation, I do not think it reflects reality. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] You demand an initiative. What kind of initiative does the Society want?

[Rabbani] In my view, the question of forming a shura council must be taken seriously. There also must be military action, since conditions are favorable. It is essential for the military initiative to be in our hands. There is also the question of explaining the situation again to foreign establishments and states and reviving the mujahidin government's role, since it is the practical solution at the moment pending another government.

[Zaydan] What prevents you from taking military steps?

[Rabbani] The problem is ammunition and material resources. For a year now we have been denied everything. Among the other reasons which hampered military action inside the country is the erroneous policy of the states which used to support the jihad. These states wanted to have a role, and perhaps their interference in some matters led to military action being hampered. And the lack of resources has obstructed military action. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] What is your opinion of the negotiations with the Russians?

[Rabbani] I believe that negotiations should be initiated with the Russians because the fundamental solution is not with the Najib government but with the Russians. If the Russians abandon aggression, the problem will be resolved.

[Zaydan] How would you assess U.S. policy at this stage?

[Rabbani] I see that a retreat and backtracking has begun in U.S. policy as they have begun to think about impractical solutions. And instead of discussing the issues with the Afghans to arrive at a realistic overview with them, they started to discuss the matters with the Russians. And if the two sides reach an agreement without the mujahidin's consent, it will be meaningless.

Mujahidin Leader Sayyaf Comments

LD1705024190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, one of the leaders of "seven-alliance" stationed in Pakistan has rejected the recent statement of Muhammad Zahir, the former king of Afghanistan, which was published on Friday [11 May] in Rome, capital of Italy, says Radio BBC.

Radio BBC adds that Sayyaf has warned the former king and has described him responsible for the present situation in Afghanistan.

According to another report from the Radio Voice of America, THE FRONTIER POST daily of Pakistan has written that there exists over 100 international volunteer organisations in border provinces of Balochistan in Pakistan which are helping the Afghan refugees. Quoting Pakistani sources the daily has added that the federal government has also decided to tell these organisations to terminate their activities and to leave Pakistan. However, the UN High Commission for Refugees and Salam Operation Organisation which is helping the Afghan refugees to return home is continuing their operation. The observers say the aid organisations are planning to provide the reliable grounds for the return of Afghan refugees and to bring about such an atmosphere inside Afghanistan so that the Afghans will be able to take an active part for the country's reconstruction.

Daily FRONTIER POST adds that it is necessary to close the other aid organisations enabling Salam Project to operate. Pakistan has also agreed with Sadruddin Agha Khan, the coordinator of the UN economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan upon the return of Afghan refugees to their country.

FRONTIER POST quoting Sadruddin Agha Khan writes that "the Afghan refugees will not spend the 12th winter in the soil of Pakistan".

FRONTIER POST adds that "'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf Wahhabi has rejected any assistance of the UN Salam Project and has ignored [words indistinct] cause of peace in Afghanistan.

Kabul Welcomes Statement

BK1705035690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 12 (AFP)—The regime here Saturday [12 May] welcomed exiled Afghan King Zahir Shah's offer to get "actively involved" in efforts to end the war in Afghanistan, but said the ex-monarch was a "beginner" in the peace process. The 76-year-old former king living in self-imposed exile in Rome since 1973, issued a statement Friday [11 May] breaking a long silence and volunteering to "get actively involved in search of peace in Afghanistan." The ex-king, who was ousted by nephew Mohammad Daoud in 1973, had earlier said he would not get involved in the Afghan conflict unless the people wanted him to.

Government Spokesman Humayun Mukammel said Kabul welcomed the former king's statement to bring peace to the Afghan people, but also insisted that the government had done more than Mr. Shah living in Italy for the past 17 years. "He (ex-king) is a beginner in this game, but under the Constitution we welcome anybody to join our process and bring peace to our people," Mr. Mukammel told reporters at a daily briefing here.

Zahir Shah's statement came two weeks ahead of the Soviet-U.S. summit which is expected to discuss the 11-year-old fracticidal Afghan war in which over a million people have died.

"We are moving ahead with practical proposals towards peace. The former king cannot usurp President Najibullah from his peace initiative which has gathered momentum in recent weeks," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. President Najibullah has been pushing ahead with radical constitutional reforms and is seeking to establish a cabinet independent of his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in a bid to influence the May 30 superpower Washington summit, diplomats here said.

Mr. Najibullah's latest peace offensive follows serious setbacks to his 1986 National Reconcilation Doctrine by a foiled coup in March and a month later a massacre of Afghan generals by the rebels during an arms surrender ceremony, they said.

King Zahir Shah's offer to help follows the rejection by his royalist followers, the National Salvation Society or NSS, to join Mr. Najibullah's Cabinet. The NSS demands that the government negotiate directly with the mujahidin.

NSS Chairman Mohammad Asghar said Saturday that he expected an envoy of former King Zahir Shah to visit Kabul shortly to assess the latest situation. Mr. Shah who reigned for 40 years is widely believed to have a considerable following in Afghanistan among rural and urban people and even among some rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

The Americans and their allies including the mujahidin are reluctant to deal with Mr. Najibullah, but the former king is acceptable to both the Soviet Union and the United States. Mr. Shah has however warned the mujahidin that they should not consider themselves to be leaders of Afghanistan but must allow people to decide it.

Diplomats here said the superpowers were moving towards a United Nations-supervised election in Afghanistan in a face-saving mechanism for both Moscow and Washington.

Najibullah Says King 'Encouraging War'

BK1705045490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1828 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 13 (AFP)—President Najibullah Sunday [13 May] slammed former King Zahir Shah for agreeing to intervene in the Afghan conflict and said the ex-monarch was actually encouraging war. In a sharp rebuttal to the 76-year-old former king's statement Friday [11 May], Mr. Najibullah said "mere declarations and press statements will not ease the pains of suffering people in Afghanistan." "Zahir Shah has said people have not yet enjoyed the fruits of the jihad (holy war). This means he wants further destruction and bloodshed for people to achieve this so-called fruits of jihad," Presidential Spokesman Sarwar Yourish quoted Mr. Najibullah as saying.

Mr. Yourish said the president told a group of local journalists here Sunday that he welcomed the former king's breaking his long silence and promising to get actively involved in efforts to bring peace, but said his statement raised doubts about his intentions. Mr. Najibullah rejected allegations by the former king that his government was an "imposed communist regime." "If in the past anyone in the PDPA (ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) or in the government (was) demonstrated as being communist, that cannot determine the nature of the PDPA or the present regime," the president was quoted as saying.

The president has said that groundless allegations were made to evade what he said was the responsibility of all parties to search for a solution through negotiations and dialogue. The allegations were a pretext to sidetrack the peace process, Mr. Najibullah said. The government Sunday reiterated that an invitation to former King Zahir Shah was still open to visit Afghanistan.

The ex-monarch's statement released in Rome Friday has attracted severe criticism by the government and a spokesman Saturday [12 May] labeled the former king as a "beginner in this game (of peace)."

The former king's statement is seen here as a serious blow to Mr. Najibullah's unilateral political moves to influence the May 30 superpower summit. Diplomats here said the government appeared to be worried that Mr. Najibullah might be sidetracked by the king's agreement to play a role in the peace process, particularly since he is more acceptable to the Afghan resistance and even has some Soviet support.

Timing of Move 'Very Significant'

BK1705051090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 13 May 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, May 13 (AFP)—Former Afghan King Zahir Shah's move to intervene in his country's conflict for the first time was seen here as a serious setback to President Najibullah's own efforts to restore peace. The 76-year-old ex-monarch, who lives in exile in Rome, broke a long silence Friday [11 May] and vowed to play "an active role" in the peace effort.

Both the government and a pro-royalist group agreed that the timing of the former king's statement released in Rome was "very significant." It came as Mr. Najibullah pressed ahead with measures, including lifting a state of emergency, to end his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan's (PDPA's) monopoly on power and clear the way for national elections. The government has also called for a grand national assembly to adopt radical constitutional reforms ahead of a May 30 summit between U.S. President George Bush and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington. They are expected to discuss Afghanistan.

"The president wanted to be seen as the only coherent political force in Kabul," a diplomat here said. "He was pushing through reforms both in his party and government to consolidate his position vis-a-vis the superpowers.

"But with the king coming into the picture, Mr. Najibullah is back to square one. The king is generally more acceptable to the people, and the president is now in a delicate position because he had publicly invited the king to intervene."

Most mujahidin resistance groups and their main supporter, Washington, have rejected negotiations with Mr. Najibullah, whom they see as a symbol of communism and a puppet of the Soviet Union. The United States and several key mujahidin factions have shown a willingness to talk to the former king, while Moscow has also been in touch with the ex-monarch. Diplomats and expatriates here were speculating that Washington and Moscow might agree to drop Mr. Najibullah, president since 1986, in favour of the ex-king to lead an interim administration to stage national elections.

Official spokesman Humayun Mukammel brushed off the suggestion. "Who controls the cities and highways? It is the Kabul government and not Zahir Shah. He has been out of the country for too long," Mr. Mukammel said Saturday [12 May]. "He is a beginner in this game."

He said Mr. Najibullah, 43, had taken more "practical steps" towards ending the war than anybody else and made it clear that he must lead the peace effort. "The former king cannot usurp Mr. Najibullah, because he has taken more practical steps and has more experience in the past few years," Mr. Mukammel said.

The ex-king also said that the mujahidin should not consider themselves leaders in Afghanistan, but should allow the people to decide. Diplomats here saw the remark as a hint to Mr. Najibullah that he should not consider himself head of state unless the people elect him.

Mr. Najibullah last week invited the pro-royalist, opposition National Salvation Society (NSS) to join the new cabinet being formed under non-PDPA Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar.

NSS president, Prof. Mohammed Asghar, rejected the offer. "This (Najibullah) is a dictator par excellence. We will not have anything to do with his government," Mr. Asghar said in an interview Saturday. He said the National Assembly, with representatives drawn from areas under government control, excluded nearly half of the country's population and would impose the will of the minority on the people.

"For the (assembly) to be truly democratic, they should have the participation of the mujahidin and other opposition parties too," he said.

Diplomats said the government must recruit people of high standing but independent of the PDPA to the new cabinet to give it credibility as independent of the ruling party.

Mr. Asghar, who was a justice minister under the king, said U.N.-supervised national elections were the best solution.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has said Kabul might not accept any solution agreed to by the superpowers [passage indistinct] the Berlin Wall, who is Najibullah? He can be dropped any time," said a source sympathetic to Washington's position.

Clashes Continue Between Rival Rebel Factions

LD0905163290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In the continuation of clashes between ['Abdul Rasul] Sayyaf, the Wahhabi, and Gulbuddin [Hekmatyar], caused by hostility and disputes on the sharing of looted materials, severe clashes have recently taken place in the area of Wardak province between the rival groups. As a result of the clashes tens of the belligerent sides were either killed or wounded. Material damages have been inflicted on the people of the area.

India

Spokesman Says Gates' Visit Not Mediation Mission

BK1705065890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] India has categorically ruled out any mediation by a third country in the Kashmir issue. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the visit of Mr. Robert Gates of the U.S. National Security Council to New Delhi has nothing to do with any mediation as reported in a section of the press.

The spokesman said the special envoy of President Bush is visiting India as part of ongoing consultations on various issues. He said India and the United States are having good bilateral relations and there have been regular visits between the two nations at various levels. When it was suggested that President Bush wanted to send a special envoy, New Delhi welcomed the suggestion and accepted it. He also pointed out that the spokesman of the U.S. Government had stated in Washington that the U.S. Administration has no intention to mediate on the issue.

The special envoy will be arriving in New Delhi on Sunday [20 May] for a two-day visit. He is carrying a letter from the U.S. President to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. The high-powered U.S. team headed by Mr. Gates also includes the assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Kelly.

15 Pakistani Soldiers Allegedly Killed on Border

BK1705011690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 16 (AFP)—At least 15 Pakistani soldiers have died in exchanges of fire with Indian troopers on the border of the northern frontier state of disputed Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI)

reported Wednesday [16 May]. The news agency said the Pakistanis were killed in forward areas of India's Poonch region Monday [14 May] in gunbattles that erupted over the construction of bunkers by soldiers in Pakistan-held Kashmir. Quoting defence sources, PTI said Indian soldiers also destroyed a school building in the village of Salothi in Pakistan-held Kashmir after it had been converted into a military bunker.

Intermittent exchanges of fire between the Indian and Pakistani soldiers were still continuing in the region of Poonch, a vital district 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Jammu, the winter capital of Indian Kashmir, PTI said. It did not say if the Indian side suffered any casualties in the skirmishes, but added that the 15 Pakistanis were slain in exchanges of fire in more than one sector along the Poonch front.

There was no independent confirmation of the report. Islamabad regularly denies Indian claims of Pakistani casualties in the region, now believed to be heavily militarised by both sides.

The news agency, in a dispatch from Jammu city, said Indian paramilitary troopers also shot dead two intruders from Pakistan Wednesday near a security post in the Poonch village of Krishan Ghati. They were believed to be Pakistani spies, PTI added.

India intensified patrols along its border with Pakistan in Kashmir after a militant-led Muslim campaign against Indian rule in the disputed state gained momentum in January. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of training and arming the Kashmiri militants. Pakistan has denied the allegations.

The two countries have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over the Kashmir dispute.

Minister: Pakistani Troops on High State of Alert

BK1705091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha was told today that Pakistan has improved its operational preparedness along the borders. In particular, the Pakistani formations in the occupied Kashmir continue to be in a high state of alert.

Replying to a calling-attention notice tabled by Mr. P.R. Kumaramanglam, Congress-I, and others, the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, said that airfields in Pakistan have been operationalized and increased radar activities have been noticed. The minister assured the members that the government is keeping a close watch on all the developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Premier on Pakistan, National Security Council

BK1605161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that the nation cannot afford any complacency in dealing with the situation created by the massing of troops on the border by Pakistan. Addressing the parliamentary consultative committee for the Defense Ministry in New Delhi today, he said Pakistan has moved its troops and ammunition to the forward areas and activated its airfields. It also continues to interfere in India's internal affairs. New Delhi has taken diplomatic initiatives to thwart Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the issue, he said.

The prime minister also outlined the final structure of the proposed National Security Council and said that it would be an advisory body working within the cabinet system. The final responsibility on all security matters will continue to rest with the cabinet. The council will be assisted by a strategic policy group which will provide various options to it on national security. The council will be presided over by the prime minister and will comprise defense, external affairs, finance and home ministers.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Official Denies Talks With UK

LD1605153990 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Dublin, May 16, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has denied categorically any scheduled meeting between its diplomats and their British counterparts in Dublin, and emphasised that there is no basis whatsoever in a British media report on Wednesday [16 May], claiming that such a meeting had been arranged for today.

Hoseyn Musavian, director general of Western European affairs at the Foreign Office and head of the Iranian delegation in Dublin to meet senior civil servants from France, Italy, Ireland, representing the European Community (EC), denied the 'DAILY TELEGRAPH' report. He denied that the two countries are due to make their first contact in Dublin today (Wednesday) and said there is no plan for such a meeting at any time.

The 'DAILY TELEGRAPH' claimed that Britain's Foreign Office has confirmed of a meeting between Jeremy Greenstock, assistant to the UK's foreign minister, and the Iranian delegation. The British Government is presently under great pressure from its general public for improvement of its relations with Iran.

Some British circles in Dublin said Wednesday that the British Government is trying to jeopardise any chances of improvement in Iran-EC relations by publicising its own isolated view of what is important to be discussed.

Tehran broke off relations with London in March 1989 over British support for sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie, following a week's ultimatum from the Majles

to Britain not to support any anti-Islamic propaganda. They saw 'THE SATANIC VERSES' issue as a deliberate failure on the part of the British Government to consult Muslims.

Cooper's Brother Visits Dublin for 'Propaganda'

LD1605222890 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] It was announced today that the Iranian representative delegation headed by the director general for the West European Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry who is curently staying in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, (?had a series of meetings with) French, Irish, and Italian representatives representing the EEC in order to survey all aspects of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EEC.

Meanwhile, in an unofficial propaganda move the British Government has sent the brother of Roger Cooper, the British spy imprisoned in Iran, to Ireland in order to overshadow the meeting of the Iranian representative with the EEC. He intends to give a letter to the Iranian representative (?which is planned for) anti-Iranian propaganda and (?try to turn) the public opinion to London's claim concering Roger Cooper's innocence. Paul Cooper, who is an employee of the commercial ITN TV network in Britain, began his propaganda campaign [words indsitinct] Wednesday [16 May].

'Informed' Circles Report Agreement With Iraq

TA1605181190 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Informed political circles within the regime have stated that, through Soviet mediation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani and 'Ali Akbar Velayati reached agreement with Saddam Husayn on Monday and Tuesday [14 and 15 May] that both the 1975 Algiers Treaty and Security Council Resolution 598 be considered simultaneously. The details of the agreement reached by the Islamic Republic and Iraq are as follows:

—Exchange of POW's, which for the sake of a balance in their number, will also include Iraqi refugees and Iraqi POW refugees.

—The dredging of Shatt al-'Arab will be carried out jointly by Iran and Iraq.

—Departure of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization from Iraqi territory and the banning of any political activity by this organization.

—Stopping the transmission of this organization's radio from Iraqi territory.

—Withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory.

—Delineation of border lines under the supervision of UN observers.

—The waiving of any war damages by both the governments of the Islamic Republic and Iraq.

—Determining the venue of the meeting of the two countries' leaders with the aim of resolving all outstanding disputes and preparing the preliminaries of a peace treaty.

Letter Said 'Conceding' Iraq Started War

LD1705083590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Efforts aimed at restarting negotiations for the sake of attaining a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq have gained a new momentum with the sending of a letter from Iraq to the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials. What can be presumed from the context of Baghdad's letter is that Baghdad rulers are implicitly conceding that they started the aggression, and that they had become an instrument for manipulation by others. [as heard]

However, what is worthy of attention in that letter is that if Iraq is genuinely interested in establishing lasting peace in the region, then it must move within the framework of UN Resolution 598, and avoid imposing obstacles and procrastinations, which result in nothing but tension and crisis. Lasting peace can only be possible and feasible if Resolution 598 is fully, precisely, and unconditionally implemented. In any case, notwithstanding the reasons behind Iraq sending that letter, one must say that the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks an honorable and lasting peace within the framework of Resolution 598, and that it has provided all possible assistance and cooperation for that purpose—one which guarantees the rights of the nations. Such cooperation can continue until the final objective—peace, that is—is attained.

There is only one very important point in the strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this point has often been repeated. Right now, when efforts aimed at restarting the negotiations have gained a new lease on life, it is appropriate to repeat that point. The point is that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not, under any circumstances, compromise its principled stances, and—with firmness and steadfastness—it will try to safeguard its rights. And this unchanging path will continue until a lasting and honorable peace is brought about.

Commentary on U.S.-Iran Financial Settlement

LD1505210890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1744 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpts] Iran and the United States, parties to disputed cases at the Hague tribunal have reached agreement about settling disputes in over 2,750 financial cases. [passage omitted]

Bearing in mind that the number of small cases to be settled had accumulated, attending to these separately would have taken up a lot of time which would have prolonged the duration of arbitration and delayed

attending to the bigger disputes. Thus, agreement was reached about a general solution to the settlement of small cases so as to speed-up the process of attending the more important disputes at the tribunal and also to cut down on expenses which would have been incurred had arbitration been prolonged. What is important from Iran's point of view is that the settling of small disputes open the way for attending to the most important of Iran's cases in the Hague Tribunal. This latter dispute is about Iran claiming the sum of $11 billion from the United States over the nondelivery of military hardware which Iran had already purchased from the United States. [video showing archival pictures of U.S. Embassy in Tehran and demonstrations related to the time when U.S. Embassy staff were taken hostage there; clips of the interior and exterior building of the court at The Hague and the court in session]

'Adeli: Iran To Draw on IMF 'If Necessary'

LD1605154290 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli said in an interview today that his participation at the annual meet of the Group-24 nations in Washington last week was profitable. He said the Group-24 discussed various issues of finance and monetary policies in member states at the meeting organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

According to the Iranian official the impact of the slowing growth and the steady inflation at the international level during the past few years has mainly hit the developing countries.

'Adeli said the Group-24 had declared that because of the absence of contribution by mercantile banks the new strategy for debts had been unsuccessful, and that the indebted developing nations continue to grapple with the impacts of their foreign loans. He said at the meeting of the group, the Islamic Republic, South Korea and Japan called for an increase in their special drawing rights (SDR), but that only Japan's application had been approved.

'Adeli said Iran's SDR share at the International Monetary Fund is now 660 million dlrs. He said when and if necessary Iran will draw on the IMF resources.

Iran's Central Bank governor was chairman of the assembly of the Group-24 states at the IMF last week.

Velayati Praises Significance of Bhutto Visit

LD1605172990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] This morning, during the ceremonies held for the Pakistani prime minister's departure, our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, stressed in an interview with an IRNA correspondent that the visit of the Pakistani prime minister has considerable regional and global significance. Referring to the fact that the visit was the first by a Pakistani administrative head since the victory of the Islamic revolution aimed at reviewing bilateral and regional issues, he rejected western media allegations that the trip was designed to overshadow the Arab summit. He said: We strongly believe that the creation of discord in the world of Islam does not serve the interests of Islam and Muslims, and it is better for all of us to think within the general framework of the world of Islam in order to better safeguard the interests of all Muslims, whether Arab or non-Arab.

Sahand Naval Maneuvers Completed 'Successfully'

NC1705090990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The fifth stage of the joint Sahand maneuvers, which included the launching of amphibious operations by the participating forces, has been successfully completed. Please pay attention to the report by our colleague in this regard:

[Begin recording] The fifth stage of the joint Sahand maneuvers was initiated yesterday morning. This stage, which comprised attacks by the noble Basijis [mobilization forces], commandos, and troops of the 2d Naval Precinct of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces against the positions of a hypothetical enemy, with the voluminous fire of scores of gunboats and the attacking vessels of the IRGC and the Armed Forces, as well as the helicopter gunships of these two forces, continued till last evening.

During a swift and bold onslaught against a stretch of Persian Gulf coast, the joint operations were carried out over a broader area with the simultaneous landing of paratroopers by our airplanes over a position of the hypothetical enemy. In these operations, the scale of which was unprecedented, the IRGC and Armed Forces units participated using 120 speedboats, rocket launchers, gunboats, and logistical and personnel vessels, and were able to disembark a whole unit of marines in the operational area, while 30 rocket launchers kept a vast area under fire.

Mr. A'la'i, the IRGC naval commander, spoke to the Central News Unit correspondent in Bushehr who is covering the Sahand operational area. He described the amphibious maneuvers as the most thrilling and extensive amphibious maneuvers to take place in the northern Persian Gulf and said: These maneuvers have been based on the experiences gleaned during the imposed war, and all the experiences gained in the various amphibious operations have been incorporated. Therefore, these operations have been of immense benefit.

Commodore Shamkhani, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, also spoke to our correspondent and said: Maneuvers such as these were implemented in practice in al-Faw, and these exercises simulated those maneuvers on a more extensive and combined scale. He described yesterday's operations as successful regarding

the intensive nature of the actions, speed, and synchronized movements by the participating forces, and as unique regarding their coordination. This is the Central News Unit in Bushehr. [end recording]

'Humanitanian' Concern Prompted Hostages' Release

NC1505135590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Freedom of Hostages Nothing To Do With 'Negotiation' or 'Deal'"]

[Text] The U.S., Britain and Israel have been busy these days with political maneuvering to disprove speculations over their having made any deal with the hostage takers.

These maneuverings have actually proved that they have no genuine interest in solving the hostage crisis but in fact would like to bring the process of hostage release to a halt.

The Islamic Republic however for its part launched extensive efforts to convince Lebanese groups to free two American hostages in recent days with no precondition and deal and merely out of humanitarian and Islamic considerations. This was but a clear practical way in finding a solution to the Middle East hostage issue.

But the U.S., to block the freedom of hostages, has brought up the issue of ties with Iran while the latter had not subjected its humanitarian efforts to any form of talks or relations with the U.S. or any other Western country.

Now to put further impediments on the way, an Israeli official has brought up the issue of talks with Iran for the freedom of hostages. Any form of contact with the Zionist state is simply out of the question for Iran and such allegations are only political ravings.

Lebanese Muslim groups practically have proven their goodwill. Now, instead of propaganda on "talks or relations" the U.S. and other Western governments could reciprocate by helping to free Lebanese, Palestinian and Iranian hostages.

Besides, the Lebanese groups held only 17 hostages while the Israelis and the Phalangists are keeping hundreds of Muslim hostages. Who should have then taken the first step? Would the freedom of innocent Lebanese, Palestinian and Iranian hostages be interpreted as a logical humane move or a dirty political deal?

The Islamic Republic and the Lebanese people rekindled a torch that could lead to the freedom of all hostages but the U.S. and Israel put it off with their dubious and ugly position takings.

But at least one thing is now quite clear to the world public opinion. Everybody now knows the West's touting over hostages was nothing but cheap political maneuvering and had nothing to do with concerns about the lives of innocent people, this they never meant. [sentence as published]

Some Westerners, instead of admiring Iranian humanitarian efforts, have interpreted them as signs of weakness saying Iran's needs for Western help in reconstruction had forced Iran to help free the hostages!

Iran acted out of humanitarian convictions and its motives had nothing to do with reconstruction needs or any political deal, nor with any desire to resume talks or ties. Such position takings by the West will only prove a deterrent.

Hostages must be released on humanitarian grounds subject to no deal or precondition. If every party acts out of goodwill, his action will beget goodwill and this will facilitate the freedom of all hostages in the Middle East.

Iran and the Lebanese have proven their goodwill. Still, if the other party demonstrates its goodwill by freeing Lebanese, Iranian and Palestinian hostages with no precondition, Lebanese Muslim groups are prepared to continue their acts of goodwill. And Iran too is prepared to go on with its humanitarian efforts.

By blocking this the U.S., Israel and some other Western countries will go down in history as the ones responsible for the continuation of the hostage crisis.

Paper Says U.S., Iraq Coordinate 'Propaganda'

NC1505140190 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 6 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Washington-Baghdad Coordinate Anti-Iran Propaganda"]

[Text] Washington Post on Thursday, quoting a Pentagon report on the Iraq-Iran war, claimed that the Islamic Republic too had used chemical weapons in Halabja.

The claim was first raised by Iraqi Ambassador to Washington Muhammad al-Mashshat, at a news conference on April 25. The Iraqi envoy's claim was "coincidentally" similar to that published by the Washington Post.

Halabja, a Kurdish town in Iraq's northeastern Sulaymaniyah Province, was liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants in March 1988 in the course of Val Fajr-10 operations. It was subsequently heavily bombed by Iraqi planes using chemical weapons. The result was horrible. It caused a holocaust killing and wounding over 10,000 innocent children, men and women. Representatives of the world mass media at that time inspected the area and reported extensively about the Baghdad regime's atrocity.

The Iraqi ambassador said at the news conference that Iranian troops had used chemical weapons in Halabja to repel an Iraqi counter-offensive and thus killed its civilian residents.

Washington Post too said in its report that on the second day of the Val Fajr-10 operations, Iranian forces had fired shells containing cyanide on Halabja. It said Iranian commander had wrongly thought that the city had been re-occupied by Iraq.

Less than 24 hours after the Post report, the New York Times on Friday published a letter sent to the paper by al-Mashshat saying that even Pentagon had come to the conclusion that Iraq's use of cyanide in Halabja was not true.

A glance at the claim made by Iraq's Washington envoy two weeks ago, the article published in Washington Post, and the Iraqi ambassador's letter, all focussing on one subject, speaks of an orchestrated effort to acquit Iraq and exert fresh pressures on Iran.

This effort follows an Iraqi admission last month on possessing binary chemical weapons and its intention to manufacture nuclear arms which prompted extensive media attacks against Baghdad in the West. Whenever Iraq's name was mentioned in connection with chemical warfare, the Halabja holocaust was taken up as the most blatant example of Baghdad's criminal use of the internationally banned weapons.

It is natural for Iraq to take action because of its needs for having friendly and expanded relations with the U.S. and the West and what seems more natural is Washington's assistance for and cooperation with Iraq.

In its propaganda efforts, the Iraqis have not forgotten to satisfy the pro-Zionist wings of the U.S. administration.

The Iraqi ambassador in his letter has said that not only Baghdad has never wanted Israel to be destroyed despite accusations levelled by Western mass media against it but has played a key role in convincing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to accept U.S. conditions for peace talks. Saddam Husayn has announced that he will support any agreements between PLO and Israel.

Both the U.S. and Iraq have come, after two years, to this conclusion that Iran had used chemical weapons in the Halabja genocide. While foreign reporters and medical teams were rushing to Halabja in groups to register the traces of Baghdad's crime, Iraq was completely silent and Pentagon, despite enjoying extensive satellite facilities, kept mum.

Western press, too, such as Washington Post and New York Times which had dispatched their reporters to Halabja published such reports that left no doubt for anyone that the Halabja genocide was the result of a crime committed by the Baghdad regime.

The U.S. is now viewing Iraq as one of its pawns in the Middle East. A proof of this is the opposition of the U.S. State Department to a move by the Senate and Congress to impose sanctions on Iraq. At present, the Americans are willing to correct Iraq's image in America through anti-Islamic revolution measures.

Attempts to mar the image of the Islamic Revolution before the Muslim nations of the world is nothing new. It started ten years ago and is likely to continue in the future.

Once Iran was accused of cooperation with the Qods occupier regime, today it is blamed for the Halabja chemical tragedy. But what is always overlooked in levelling these charges is the belief of the nations.

Editorial on Need for U.S. Action on Hostages

NC1505150290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Action, Not Words Expected From U.S. on Hostages"]

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday severely criticized the Western countries in general and the United States in particular, on their response to Iranian efforts for the release of all hostages in Lebanon and Israel, regardless of their nationalities—and on purely humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Rafsanjani accused the U.S. of not working hard enough to obtain the release of the hostages held in Lebanon and Israel. The Hizballah in Lebanon, former hostage Frank Reed who was freed on Monday and some other Western parliamentarians displayed similar reactions.

In his speech on Thursday, Mr. Rafsanjani reiterated the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said "hostage-taking was an ugly act in itself" and recalled that "we should not forget the causes and the background" that led to such undesirable events.

These were the only reasons that prompted Iran to appeal to the Muslim groups in Lebanon to show goodwill and release one hostage at first and that too an American.

Two hostages were subsequently released and President George Bush, who had earlier publicly stated that "goodwill begets goodwill" has begun to behave—as Mr. Rafsanjani himself said—like an "obstinate child full of complexes."

The Western media also fuelled rumors against the Islamic Republic painting a picture of Iran as wanting to make a deal on the hostages, or saying outright or implying that Tehran was motivated by a desire to renew relations with the United States.

Time and again the Iranian leader and officials here have made Iran's policy on this issue more than clear. On Wednesday leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i once more reiterated Iran's policy and declared that there is no way for a resumption of diplomatic ties between Iran and U.S.

Mr. Rafsanjani also echoed the leader's statement on Thursday and said "Iran has no desire to have ties with the U.S."

Of course, President George Bush realizing his mistake tried to undo what his State Department and Congress had detrimentally done during the past three weeks.

President Bush said, as he no doubt should have done almost soon after the release of each of these hostages, that he would signal goodwill for Iran's help in freeing

the two hostages by trying to give Iran information about the Iranians kidnapped by Israeli mercenaries in Lebanon in 1982.

What is necessary now, even despite all that has happened, is action and not words. If President Bush is really sincere it is expected authentic information about four Iranians be furnished to Tehran and in addition news about a good number of other Moslems including leading 'Alim Shaykh 'Ubayd, who should all be freed from the clutches of the Zionists holding them.

If words can be translated into pratice, it is then and only then that the Muslims in Lebanon can be expected to continue their goodwill gestures in their turn.

Defense Minister: Army More Powerful Than Ever

LD0905162490 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—If Muslims do not determine their own destiny, big powers will rule over them in view of the new pattern of power axes in the world, said the minister of defence and armed forces logistics today.

Akbar Torkan recalled that after the First World War, colonial powers strove to weaken Islam as a potential threat against their vested interests. However, he added, their efforts came to nought, with the awakening of the Muslim Ummah under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni who founded the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Torkan, speaking at the decoration ceremony of graduate and under-graduate conscripts, said following the eight-year-long holy defence, the armed forces of the Islamic Republic are fully ready to protect Iran's territorial integrity. "The Armed Forces have never been so powerful as they are today," he stressed.

*RESALAT Report on 22 Apr 90 Majles Session

90AS0047A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Apr 90 pp 5, 8

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles met in public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. During this session, Armenian representatives from the south and west of the country, Amol and Birjand gave talks, then the Majles speaker gave a talk, the text of which appeared in the previous issue.

After readings of verses from the glorious words of God, memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and a report on the public session.

Artavas Baghumian, Representative of the Southern Armenians

Mr. Baghumian, representative of the southern Armenian religious minority, was the first pre-agenda speaker. He stressed the need to implement Security Council Resolution 598, and he discussed the Five-Year Plan. He said:

With all its potential, whether in terms of manpower or potential natural resources, for its reconstruction the nation needed a comprehensive and calculated plan. Through the efforts of the executive officials and Majles legislation, the nation's first Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan is now ready for implementation. However, for its best implementation, it needs the comprehensive cooperation of all the various classes of people, especially educated, specialist, and management people, and with the employment of these resources and the use of technical knowledge and the world's technological advancements, it will be possible to overcome the nation's economic problems. This will not be possible, however, without directing unused capital and attracting the cooperation of creative, thoughtful, and innovative people to the production sector, whether industrial or agricultural. In this matter every Iranian must know his duty, for no effort must be spared in the growth and development of the nation's economy. The Armenians of Iran, who have always been active in various sectors of the the nation's economic development and independence, are now more concerned than ever and are firmly resolved to rebuild the nation's economy. They hope that to this end they will be able to fulfill their national and patriotic duty in the best way. It is appropriate here that we thank them for their participation in the World Jerusalem Day march.

Elsewhere in his talk, he proclaimed the independence of the Armenian churches from the Vatican, and he said: The month of April recalls sad memories in the history of humanity. On 24 April 1915 the Ottoman Turkish government began a terrifying program of genocide against more than 1.5 million innocent people in West Armenia, and subjected its subjects to countless acts of oppression and violence, and this came after periodic killings that had taken place in this land up until that time. The Turkish officials of that time left a dark stain on the history of humanity as they pursued their racist [pantheistic?] objectives. This year, the 50th anniversary of their liberation, the Armenians of the world are again protesting the policies of the Turkish authorities and are proclaiming their demand for justice. Now more than half the descendants of the Armenian nation are living outside the land of their forefathers in the farthest corners of the world and are ever in danger of losing their genuine cultural and religious identity. As we condemn the policies of the Turkish authorities in recent years against Muslims and other divine religions, we declare that the Turkish governments have not only failed to condemn the inhumane acts of their predecessors, we now even see agitation by the Turkish government in the republics of the Soviet Union which is producing unwanted ethnic unrest and conflict. To put an end to this fratricide, we expect the Soviet leaders to correct the mistakes of the Bolsheviks and to take decisive and just measures.

He then added: The Armenians of Iran have lived peacefully alongside their Muslim brothers for centuries in this land. They have always enjoyed human rights and special measures, and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the Armenians also benefitted from the high advantages of the revolution and the special blessing of the Islamic Republic towards their oppressed and combative nation. Over the years, like the Armenians in the rest of the world, they have conveyed to their Muslim brothers and the people of the world their protests and cries for justice, whether in the form of gatherings, demonstrations, or in other ways, with regard to the mass slaughter. Now, on the basis of the rights of the Armenians of the world, they want the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the supporter and standard-bearer of the struggle for rights by the oppressed, to condemn the slaughter of Armenians by the Ottoman Turkish government, and to support their rightful struggle for truth and justice.

Mr. Baghumian then discussed the changes in the world. He said: The international change we have seen in past years, and especially in the last year, is the dismantling of the foundations of the despotic governments and the creation of popular and free governments in the world, especially in the Eastern bloc. This is good news for reducing the movements in the world and the creation of a desirable world society for the future that will facilitate achieving the rights of the oppressed nations such as the Palestinians, the tormented people of Lebanon, the Armenians, and other nations. On Friday, which was International Jerusalem Day, the combative people of Iran declared their unqualified support for the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the liberation of Jerusalem by protesting the Zionist occupation of Palestine. The Armenians, along with their Muslim brothers and other religious minorities, participated in this just activity.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker explained that all the world's experts agree that natural gas, as a sound source of energy and before that the primary substance for procuring petrochemical products, has exceptional importance in the world. He said: It is the transfer of natural gas from limited world reserves to the consumer, and in this regard the main method has been to transfer it by pipeline to the consumer centers, but with new progress, suitable resources have come to exist to liquify natural gas and transfer it by special ships, and as the world's second-largest reservoir of gas, certainly Iran will have a major role in the procurement of the world's consumer gas, and the conversion of gas to petrochemical products will be a brilliant area for industrial production.

Planning is necessary to convert crude oil to oil products and sell them in such a way that there will added value in the nation's oil exports. This will be facilitated through participation in high-level and low-level projects with other countries, companies and refiners, and it will be possible to increase significantly incomes derived from the sale of oil.

In conclusion, the representative of the southern Armenian religious minority announced thanks and praise from the Armenian public to the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council and the Ministry of Education and Training for their special favor to Armenian students.

Kazemi-Dinan, Amol Deputy

Mr. Kazemi-Dinan, of the Amol electoral district, was the second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session. In his talk he thanked and praised the aroused and zealous Muslims throughout the world, especially the people of Mazandaran, the land of tulips, and the people of Amol, the city of 1,000 fortifications, and its surrounding districts, for their involvement on International Jerusalem Day.

He then discussed the philosophy of the occupation of Jerusalem. He said: The Samarian goldsmiths agreed on a way to resist the unity movement of the Prophet Moses and his companions. Up to that time, his enemies had no time to waste. They were trying to reach their material God, and captured the people of Moses in small groups. Their objective and their god was the glitter of jewels and antiques and their valuables. They therefore took these things and vacated themselves and became filled with their god, and were utterly successful in reaching and obtaining this god. All the assayers, taking over all the world's gold treasuries and storage sites, and even the agriculturally important strategic items, seized the power of the people, all the assayers came into the field of unity to fight with the monotheists. Their goal was therefore to take over territory. This had been the philosophy of their predecessors in planning and advising Mu'awiyeh, Yazid, and Bani Umiyah, and they watered and plowed the soil of Karbala and destroyed the ruins, so as not to remember God and to challenge his people. They want to trample this place that reminds the minds of humanity of God.

The speaker added: Therefore, just as we have seen in this revolution, the gold sellers and capitalists have consistently damaged the revolution and are busy doing so even now, and they must be fought. Just as we announce our struggle with the Zionists of the world, a strong fight must be waged against those who have risen out of that Zionism and are damaging the revolution from within.

Elsewhere in his talk, the Amol deputy, remembering World War Two, mentioned Hitler's compromise on the emigration of Jews to occupied Palestine. He then said:

The powerful principle in this world is world Zionism. America, the Soviet Union, and other selfish governments are hand picked by these foreign ruffians of Zionism, who obey the Zionists and do not utter a word without their permission. Therefore, to fight with these people who are filled with their god of gold, we must fill ourselves with our own God. The philosophy of the end of the blessed month of Ramadan is purification, wakefulness at night, piety empty of everything that is not God and leaving the self behind, and we must be filled with God to stand up to these people who are filled with

the god of gold. Then God will keep his promise, and we will be victorious. We who have given our hearts to God in this relentless struggle must act in conformity with the month of Ramadan so that at the end of the month we will show ourselves and attack this enemy of humanity and this cursed demon with purity, unity, and solidarity. The liberation of humanity depends on this state of ours, that humanity that has risen to fight.

The speaker added: Now, since seedlings of early spring are kept from blooming by cold weather, there is cold in us that we must put aside. We must put an end to quarreling and factionalism and become as a single hand and a strong fist. When we become a strong fist, we will create another 22 Bahman [11 February]. Clearly, the moment the Muslims of the world become purified and awake, are sincere and as a single hand and a single fist, an answer for the problem and a day like 22 Bahman will appear. Ultimately world Zionism, the source of so much torture and torment for humanity, will be cut off, and these people will be set free.

Mr. Kazemi-Dinan then discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: I thank the competent government of brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and in view of the submission of the Five-Year Plan and the Budget for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] enacted by the great Majles brothers and now on the government's agenda, God willing they will be successful and confirmed, and with this unity and solidarity, we hope to put the first Five-Year Plan behind us successfully and work for the exalted goal in the next plan.

Ha'erizadeh, Birjand Deputy

The third and final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Ha'erizadeh of the Birjand electoral district. He began his talk by thanking the Muslim nation for its grand turnout at the International Jerusalem Day demonstrations.

Continuing, he added: May today be blessed, 22 April, the anniversary of the proclamation of the cultural revolution to the entire Muslim nation. The fifth of this month is the anniversary of the direct and criminal American military raid at Tabas which was carried out against the Islamic revolution. The crimes of America and its allies against the Islamic revolution have always and will always exist. The 5th of May is the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Farzaneh and the contemporary Muslim intellectual Ayatollah Motahari, and it is Teacher Day. Long live the cherished memory of that great man, esteemed intellectual, and great scholar of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him). Along with the name and memory of master Motahari we commemorate Teacher Day, and we offer abundant praise to all the esteemed teachers, men and women, throughout Islamic Iran. The final day of this month, which coincides with 25 Shaval in the lunar year [21 May], is the anniversary of a great martyrdom for the Muslim nation, that of the exalted master of the Ja'fari school, His Holiness Imam Ja'far Sadeq (peace be upon him). May God grant everyone worthiness and success in utilizing his commands and teachings.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh added: Martyr Ayatollah Motahari says that the source of crimes is the lack of justice, and this puts justice in perspective for religion. Justice consists of giving rights to the one who has rights and refraining from interfering with the rights of one who has rights. Ayatollah Motahari made these valuable statements years ago, we glorify him, but we do not act. Our economic situation is so unsound that a few people plunder billions of tomans annually from the wages of the Muslim nation as dealers, brokers, so-called permissible merchants, and limited partnerships (at least we work on the base level of Sudan). An example is that limited partnership company that made two billion tomans profit in a so-called permissible cloth transaction, meaning plundering the equivalent value of two thousand homes for the nation's deprived people in a single simple buying and selling transaction. There is talk everywhere, but nothing changes, and every official organization attacks another. We talk for hours and days about the justice of 'Ali (peace be upon him), we praise the high thoughts of our departed imam, we discuss and praise the words and thoughts of Martyr Ayatollah Motahari, but we do little, so what is the meaning of the cultural revolution?

The Birjand representative discussed hoarders. He said: A decisive decision has been issued, many hoarders have been fined, the Treasure verse of the Koran has been carried out, and there has been a year of press interviews, hundreds of pre-agenda speakers, and hundreds of sermons. The Majles merely writes the prescription and prescribes the way. Implementation, decrees, and judgement are not the work of the Majles. Speeches, sermons, talks, and interviews are no longer of interest to the deprived, the teachers, the wage-earners, the laborers, the deprived farmers, the small businessmen and the under-capitalized merchants. Talk, talk, and more talk, breaking and confiscating the assets of a few hoarders selling at exorbitant prices, wealthy people and wage-stealing bullies, and taking back from them the rights of the oppressed has a greater reward in the hereafter than staying up all night in the month of Ramadan, laying the Koran on one's head, and much more than wailing and grieving over master 'Ali (peace be upon him). 'Ali (peace be upon him) was killed for justice, 'Ali (peace be upon him) was martyred defending the oppressed and deprived, and now that we are able and are at the peak of power, if we do not act 'Ali will curse us. Laying the Koran on one's head and putting a few verses at one's feet is not a holy act. Closing the Koran, promoting the Koran, and forgetting forever the Koranic concept of "Do not make a closed circuit between the wealthy among you," arouses the anger of God, and practical protest against the mention of the name of God has brought us a wretched livelihood.

The speaker mentioned the advent of Teacher Day and its problems. He said: The great Teacher Day is arriving

and with all these high prices and this enormous inflation for the teacher and his students, his underfed and underclothed children, the workers, the farmers, the deprived merchants and wager earners, it is not even possible to speak true and learned words with ease. A great many families are deprived of the basic necessities of life. It is not possible to speak of the values of the cultural revolution and the Islamic revolution to a crowd of hungry and indigent people in the villages and deprived urban areas. Visit the deprived villages of the municipality of Nahbandan and Khoshk of Birjand to make reality clearer. It is not easy to read verses from the Koran to all the innocent, homeless people, and those who have fallen into the net of narcotics and smuggling. Hunger, affliction, and pain cannot hear. One cannot easily speak of the exalted teachings of Islam and Emam Sadeq to all the homeless and deprived families who have fallen into the net of fornication due to dire poverty and the oppression of the wealthy hoarders, and to speak of the exalted purity of Fatemeh Zahra (peace be upon her) and Zaynab (peace be upon her). The afflicted, the ill, and the poor think first of the necessities. There is no longer any need for a criminal American attack in the real sense of the Tabas raid, for the economic and financial gold-diggers and bullies, along with the brokers and religiously unlawful merchants have plundered all the core assets of the deprived people. After poverty comes the loss of religion and Islam to at least 30 percent of the people in the Islamic society, and following poverty comes poor ethics, fornication, and narcotics.

There is no need for an American attack. Domestic enemies stab the deprived in the backs up to the hilt of the dagger, piercing their believing hearts, and they gladden America, communism, and Zionism, the same imperialists and dissimulators who justify treasures, hoards, and wealth.

Continuing, he added: In the days of mourning the martyrdom of the master of masters, 'Ali (peace be upon him), I went to Birjand and the deprived municipality of Nahbandan, and in one of the villages of the most deprived municipality in Iran, I saw an old woman hauling water five to six kilometers by hand for herself and her children. Tired, worn and weak, with lifeless eyes and arms, we stood and looked around in the crowd of rural Muslims. Seeing this old woman with a leather bag of water over her shoulders, I remembered the mother of orphans of Kufeh. The thirst, fatigue, and poverty of her children tormented me, and I remembered the cool and warm swimming pools on that other side costing millions of tomans with fountained pools, water purification devices, and air conditioners in the fancy homes of the wealthy and prosperous. Several of the people in a village of 1,000 people were suffering from the lack of drinking water and other problems. As I have done for the past 10 years while I have had the honor of representing them, I consoled them that things would gradually get better, but seeing that old woman and her water bottles hauling water by hand left me speechless. After all, it is not a village of two or three families, this is a village of 150, 200, and 300 families. Why? Why? I wanted to read from the verse from the Koran that says "there is nothing for a human being but what he runs after," but I saw that their lives are nothing but running, like the running of Abraham, Hajar, and Esma'il, but happiness remains an illusion for them. Who will make water flow from the Zamzam well for them? When will they see the water run in Zamzam? However, we see the fountains, water displays, and pools of the wealthy, but there is neither flowing fountain nor well for these tired, thirsty, and aching deprived people. They do not even have the most vital substance, water.

Continuing, the Birjand deputy said: According to the official report from the commander of the Municipality of Nahbandan, the respected governor-general of Khorasan and the deputies and general managers, over a 10 year period there has not been a single meter of road built in all the municipality and villages of Nahbandan. Hundreds of deprived villages still lack roads. This is the most deprived and one of the most extensive desert and border municipalities. The deprived and populous areas are the same way.

He discussed the Tradition about taking the rights of the weak from the powerful: I wanted to read a Tradition from Ibn Athir cited by martyr Ayatollah Motahari, where the most respected Prophet of Islam said: "No nation has become pure and chaste without taking the rights of its weak people from the powerful." However, I realized silence would be better. I saw that in Tehran and many cities, the wealthy have fully appointed weddings, lavish dinners, and even Pharaonic and idolatrous breakfasts in the salons of luxurious hotels, and they spend several hundred thousand tomans for the wedding dinner and its decorations.

The speaker likewise said: I request that Ayatollah Motahari's comprehensive study of Islamic economics be published on this anniversary of his martyrdom with commentary and footnotes from the respected clergy, with whatever explanations may be necessary.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh said: I sincerely ask that the Expediency Discernment Council strive to strengthen the Majles. In Azar of 1367 [22 November-21 December 1988] his holiness the imam emphasized: "Let us all act in accordance with the Constitution. What has been done during these years was connected with the war." Why are some people now opposing the Five-Year Plan from the Majles, applying pressure in high places, and borrowing money? We have tens of problems more necessary than teaching literacy to old people.

An immediate answer is requested by the poor farmers from the respected judiciary to the requests of the Central Staff of the seven-person land transfer councils, along with the name of the judicial representative, after a 10-month delay.

To the Voice and Vision Supervisory Council on the question of the Voice and Vision becoming a monopoly for a

special group and idea, it is not smoking material, that it should become a monopoly, whatever has happened.

Renewed and repeated mention to the respected government and the judiciary concerning a serious, decisive, and effective encounter with the matters of high prices, inflation, and back-breaking, devastating hoarding, and a sincere request from the seminaries and universities to intervene and realize the cultural revolution and the con. nands of his holiness the imam in practice in work, study, and research programs, for this has not been done overall.

Report on Public Session

The first agenda item at yesterday's public Majles session was the report from the Research Commission concerning the credentials of Mrs. Mariam Behruzi, Tehran deputy.

Research Commission Report

On 18 March 1990 the Research Commission met to study the file of Mrs. Mariam Behruzi from the Tehran electoral district, which had been protested by Mrs. Raja'i and Mr. Duzduzani on 7 March 1990. The chief objections raised were as follows: 1 - The distribution of election posters with the wording "Martyr's Mother" and the use of propaganda terms (explaining that this was seen as a factor in making the elections unsound, and the remaining objections pertain to her own personal competence, and are presented below) 2 - Non-adherence to the views of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] his holiness the imam (may almighty God be pleased with him). 3 - Open opposition to velayat-e motlaqeh faqih [the absolute vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult]. An example of that open opposition to the views of his holiness the imam is in the confirmation of Mr. Musavi, and her full cooperation with people who were publicly opposed to his holiness. 4 - Spreading fornication, accusations, calumny, and slander concerning the nation's toiling officials and the ideological political figures of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an example of which is the propagation and publication of lies concerning a minister of the former government and showing family photographs of him to the Majles deputies and others as evidence against a vote of confidence for him. 5 - Creating pessimism among the people in sensitive groups with regard to the toiling government and the revolutionary and genuine groups and individuals. 6 - Stimulating the thirst for power.

After comments from the protestors, Mrs. Behruzi appeared before the commission and answered the problems and objections. With regard to the election propaganda and the use of the term "Martyr's Mother," she said that she knew nothing of this incident and that others did this without telling her. She denied failing to adhere to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult of His Holiness the imam. She admitted, however, to distribution of photographs of the family life of a former minister. The commission listened to the answers on all these matters and their pertinent commentary, and in conclusion it voted on the election file of Mrs. Mariam Behruzi from the Tehran electoral district. There were 12 persons in attendance, nine of whom voted against, one abstention, and three in favor of approval. Thus the file of Mrs. Behruzi was not approved in the Majles Research Commission.

Mrs. Raja'i, Opposing the Credentials

Then Mrs. Raja'i spoke as the first opponent to Mrs. Mariam Behruzi's credentials. She noted that in the several years of Mrs. Behruzi's term as deputy, she has never had any personal problems with her. She said: What persuaded me to oppose the credentials of Mrs. Mariam Behruzi was the importance of belief in the absolute vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and his claims. She has always spoken of supporting the principle, but has opposed it in practice. In this matter she shows so much sensitivity that she is even prepared to question the Majles, which has been well tested in this connection many times. (RESALAT 12 December 1989) Here I emphasize to the dear brothers that in these last few years the way has been cleared in areas that were unsuitable so that those wishing to come to the Majles would be dealt with magnanimously by the Majles, and they would be able to find their way to the Majles or other sensitive responsibilities in any way or under any conditions.

He added: Perhaps if she were not seeking sensitive and important work such as a deputy's post in the Majles, it would be better not to require her to answer to that. However, in view of the fact that, at a sensitive and fateful point in time, his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified) enumeraied the criteria for Majles candidates in his speech on the occasion of the elections for the second Majles term elections, and he advised tne people to vote for people who have those characteristics and to reject and publicly announce the names of persons opposing those characteristics and criteria, I acted on the basis of this duty. In this regard I felt it was my duty to discuss what happened between us with you respected deputies and our dear and noble people, and to leave it to you to judge. With regard to the credentials of Mrs. Mariam Behruzi, the things I will say mostly have to do with my encounters with her in the Majles. As you all know, in the second Majles term a vote of confidence was held on the government of Mr. Musavi, and views were sought on his holiness the imam as the supreme jurisconsult and the leader of the Islamic revolution. His holiness the imam first gave his views in a simple way based on the law and the preservation of respect and dignity for the respected president and the Majles, and he saw it as being in the interest of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that Mr. Musavi and his government continue their work under conditions of the war and the enemy's daily increasing plots. For those who believed in the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult, this was enough, and they listened respectfully and obediently, but as for others, what can I say? Those who were deputies in the second Majles term and those who followed Majles issues and debates are quite capable of

saying who made bad and unacceptable comments, and who presented unacceptable justifications in this regard. Opposition to the government the imam had validated reached the point that it worried his holiness the imam, so that he told his office to tell the people his views. I am not speaking of the government of Mr. Musavi, every other government was also validated by his holiness the imam, I have said these things with regard to the matter of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult.

In short, here we see a government that was not only validated, but was supported by the leader and the supreme jurisconsult. How could it be cursed and despised by Mrs. Mariam Behruzi, so that when they wanted to give an example she compared it to something whose religious impurity had been proven to her, but had not been proven to the imam?

Continuing, she said: The situation is such that a day ago, the same day that a vote of confidence was on the Majles agenda, we were discussing this matter. She drew a small circle on her shoe with her finger, saying: Suppose this spot is religiously unclean. I know it is religiously unclean, but the imam does not know. Even if the imam were to come and say it is clean, for me it is unclean. This example had nothing to do with the subject except as a way to divert her own mind and that of others, because this example has to do with a detail of religious law, while the topic of obedience to the supreme jurisconsult with regard to major social and political issues, government commands, and the fateful issues of the government and the revolution is something else, and this is most surprising. Although she always presents herself as someone who knows the law, she makes no distinction between a religious decree and a political and social decree. In any case, the question must be asked, is this absolute obedience to the supreme jurisconsult, which is something she has claimed repeatedly to accept? Should the government validated by the supreme jurisconsult and the prophetic leadership, whose spiritual and intellectual greatness and vision has been attested to and praised by friend and foe and all the world's fair-minded scholars and politicians, be treated in this way (we ourselves have experienced this greatness throughout the history of the Islamic revolution, meaning from the year 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964] to this day)?

Mrs. Raja'i added: In those same days, before the Majles began its agenda, Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahonar came and sat beside me and asked my opinion about the candidacy for prime minister for a person whose name I need not mention, and I gave Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahonar my views of the matter of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult, as follows: I am not someone who wants to express an opinion before the imam. I am a follower, and the imam is my source of emulation and leader. Therefore, whatever he says is the truth for me. After Mr. Bahonar left, Mrs. Mariam Behruzi made a comment no doubt based on the premise that I or someone like me could not make distinctions myself. She said to me: Of course if one cannot make one's own distinctions, one must be a follower. Yet she has repeatedly claimed and claims that one must follow comprehensively the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult to advance the goals of the Islamic revolution, and that all the affairs of the Muslims are in the capable hands of the supreme jurisconsult, that the Majles must be able to rise up in solidarity with the people, and you can read this in the newspapers. In short, there is a scandalous difference between her words and her actions in support of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and the exalted position of the leadership, so that in practice she justifies non-obedience to the leadership for foolish reasons, and she goes to the point of being willing to bring the Majles up against the exalted leadership. Consequently she can call herself a follower, ignoring the fact that she has been tested in the best way repeatedly in the Majles. Here the best example is the vote of confidence for the respected minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Velayati. I note that there were differences of opinion between this foreign ministry and the respected Majles deputies, and it was likely that he would not receive a vote of confidence from the Majles, for this reason a number of supporters proposed to His Holiness the imam that Mr. Velayati continue his work. Some deputies, including myself, merely heard that the imam supported this proposal. The commitment of the respected deputies to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult caused him to get the highest vote of all the cabinet members, 225 votes, and yet the ballots were secret, and those voting in opposition were not identified. After his holiness the imam passed away, we still see that the Majles follows the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and supports the exalted position of the leadership and has voted in support of all the members of the cabinet of the respected president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In her talks, she has repeatedly questioned this Majles in the mid-term elections. Of course I think it necessary to mention that in dealing with the Majles she was aiming at some of the deputies rather than the entire assembly, but I ask the deputies, if they deem it necessary, to study her interviews in the newspapers. With regard to the mid-term propaganda, look and see if she directed her remarks at some people or the entire Majles.

Mr. Duzduzani (Opposed to Credentials)

Mr. Duzduzani, an opponent of the credentials of Mrs. Mariam Behruzi, said at the beginning of his talk:

In this special matter, I say to those authorities who asked me to abandon this issue that this is not a matter of a factional or ideological dispute. Some of the gentlemen, whose names I will not mention, have opposed files (since I am a member of the Majles Research Commission). They came to the Majles Research Commission and said if so-and-so does not object, I won't object. However, I state clearly that it absolutely was not and is not this way, and I truly believe that Mrs. Mariam Behruzi is incompetent to serve in the Majles. This is not something I can pass over. In any case, we are responsible. We have a responsibility among the people, and we are also responsible before God.

He then discussed the reasons for his opposition. He said: One of the dear ones who is still in the Majles and was a reputable and clean personality before the Islamic revolution, who is also a great clergyman and who also served in the first and second terms of the Majles, said: In the matter of the vote of confidence for the government, I saw that this woman come looking for an opportunity to show me a photograph. What is this photograph? I asked. She said: It shows the wedding party of one of the ministers. In this commentary of mine I do not for a moment intend to defend that minister or that action, but I reject this matter, I consider that to be conrary to religious law, and a case of non-adherence to the ideological criteria of Islam, orthodoxy, and the Islamic revolution. This great man asked me to look at this photograph, it is a picture of so-and-so's wedding. You must look, today we are to vote. What is it? I said. She said it is a naked photograph. Very well madam, I said, you are religious, you wear a veil, you are chaste, how, from your orthodox position, are you spreading this filth? What is the meaning of spreading filth? Couldn't you have simply said that a picture is in such-and-such a place? Those who wish could go and look.

He then added: Please, ask the control room, if the Majles is willing, to insert the remarks at the end of the second term after the elections for the third term. I was obliged to come here and answer to reasoning that was used. I said sir, this is the great imam's handwriting and this is his signature at the bottom. He says you must confirm the elections (addressing the Council of Guardians), I appointed a representative and researched the matter, and all the individual elections were under my direct supervision. In the elections for the third term they questioned the minister of the interior and accused him. They went so far as to publish an opinion that he is incompetent. They even questioned the Council of Guardians.

Mr. Duzduzani added: I say in this tribunal in plain terms that some people in this country tormented the imam. In that same year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] a brother came to me and said, I've just come from Jamaran, I had gone so the imam could execute a contract, and then he told me he was worried about the government, that I should go and tell the people that Mr. Mir Hoseyn Musavi is a good man, and I was to tell the deputies as well. Just the day before in Qom, the former leader stressed that the Majles must be careful about this issue, for all the imperialist propaganda horns near and far are waiting for this situation. I came and told these things to the gentlemen. They listened. Then I came to the public session and saw the results and the abuses. I don't know how they will evaluate that aborted session. Now you see that the positions of this sister at all phases reached the point that his holiness the imam had to lower himself and portray Mr. Mir Hoseyn Musavi in writing as a committed and religious man, and they did not understand the words of the imam and the imam's emphatic commentary.

He said: In her posters, printed in large quantities, this sister gives her level of education. Her elementary education goes to the sixth grade and then suddenly she jumps to secondary school. Although it says that she studied theology and philosophy for three years and then passed the external exams [?dowreh-ye kharej], yet she studied sath [lower level studies—short of the eight to 10 years usually required]. Anyone who really does what she said she did would be able to exercise independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence.

Concluding his talk, Mr. Duzduzani added: The nine people in the Majles Research Commission who voted against her credentials did so because most of them were there during the second term and observed her positions, her actions, and her inactions. Now she may say that I have been impious, for after I made my remarks she came and said, yes, these deprived and oppressed people who chanted and carried placards were paid. Very well, obviously they were paid by someone, but consider these issues carefully. Despite the term martyr's mother, does someone's son become a martyr because his casket is buried between the graves of Martyr Beheshti and Martyr Chemran?

Mrs. Behruzi's Defense

After the remarks from her opponents, Mrs. Mariam Behruzi defended herself. She said: Because of the respect I have for the woman in office, and as a defense of the rights and reputation of women, that is the women who in some way have been active in society and in the Islamic revolution, I will say nothing in response to our sister Raja'i, and I respect her as before. During the episode of the spy nest and the freeing of several American women the imam said we were freeing those women because of our respect for women, and in his divine political will he said I honor the women of our nation. Accordingly, following his holiness the dear imam, I act on what I have learned of my duty from him. He was even concerned about the oppressed women of the world, and he never said a harsh word about women. God willing, we must make a practice of promoting Islamic culture, the same culture the imam founded, so we will not give satisfaction to those who would like to see a clash between two women in the Majles.

She then answered the objections. Concerning the vote of confidence for the government, she said: There have been discussions concerning the difference between a religious decree and a command where a source of emulation is concerned, and they have had nothing to do with the matters of vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult, because God's clear command in the glorious Koran and our quarrel with the liberals, which is clear to the respected deputies, was over this very issue, both in the past and now. The command of a vice-regent must be obeyed. In that radio interview in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] when the radio invited me to talk about the rights of women, I said that unless I discuss the matter of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult I will not get into the question of the rights of women, for

I believe that the rights of women are achieved only in Islamic government under the leadership of the vice-regent of the Muslims. Therefore, in that 12-part radio discussion, I explained that the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult means absolute rule over the lives, assets, and breadth of society, and based on the Glorious Koran there are only two ways. One either obeys the vice-regent or one obeys Satan, there is no third alternative. I said these things on the radio in 1358 when the topic of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult was a hot one. All the brother listened, especially the high clergy and the seminary teachers, and I have letters of thanks and encouragement from the high clergy and the grand ayatollahs.

Continuing, she said: They are saying that I said this and that, and that I took positions after the imam's decrees were issued. I said those things in the commission as well, and if someone heard a word from me after the imam's comments, it is correct. After the decree from His Holiness the imam we all obeyed, the discussion we had after the vote of confidence on the government was that suddenly a number of deputies and some of the sisters were saying that there were 99 people in the Majles opposed to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult, and these people are opposed to the imam. What I said was that you should not say these things, this hurts the Islamic revolution and the government, it will weaken the government and the exalted position of the leader. Instead of this you should say praise God, the Majles has acted on the imam's command and decree and given the government a vote of confidence. The only thing I said to our dear sister Mrs. Raja'i (just as she herself said, we have no personal problems, we are even cordial, and I also respect her) was just that I said this talk is not right, this is damaging to the Islamic revolution.

Mrs. Behruzi then responded to Mr. Duzduzani's remarks. She said: First of all, my comments and positions are known to the respected deputies, it was not only him who heard, all the deputies heard them. It may be that my comments are not to your taste for various reasons or you disagree with them, but this is no reason for you to say it has to do with the matter of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult. Yes, I really expressed my opinion and took a position. The imam said to elect teachers to the Majles. Now I am not worth the dust under the feet of a teacher and will never be, but I was not, am not, and will not be a dead deputy either who will simply say something based on the views and wishes of a few fanatics, the moment the imam said the women should pour into the streets to express orthodox and political views and raise their voices in defense of the truth, and they are giving women courage and encouragement not to sit silently to achieve their rights. As a deputy you must vote wisely and strive to implement the truth. I have never placed my interest above that of Islam and the Muslims, and I will not do so. I have never and I will never forget my religious responsibilities to stay in office. My final point was to explain the realities in answer to the untrue statements you have made before the Majles. There is even documentation. Why do you circulate personal issues?

The speech is in the Majles Archives. What I said was that the decree written in the noble handwriting of his holiness the imam validated the elections and we all obey his greatness. There is nothing more to say concerning the elections, and we must all shout over the head of America.

Continuing, she addressed the protesters, and said: In the matter of the vote of confidence in the government and that old story about the 99 people, my question is, how do you know who voted and who did not vote for the government? What, after all, is the philosophy of a negative vote? Now is it right for you to take the story of the 99 people and go ahead? Can you swear who cast the negative votes? Can you say if I cast a negative vote or not? "And pursue not that of which thou hast no knowledge; for every act of hearing, or of seeing, or of the heart will be answered to on Judgment Day." [quoting the Koran] Is it right for you to use this weapon of 99 persons as a club to drive out your political opponents? Won't behavior like this lower the value and position of the Majles? Won't that undermine the freedom of the Majles? As the imam said, the Majles was created by the cry "God is great." Then after that he said there must be opinions for and against issues in the Majles. No one has the right to take liberties with the Majles deputies, no one has the right to weaken the Majles. Praise God, the Consultative Islamic Majles is an example of a free Majles in the world. Its sanctity must be preserved. Really you must allow the sanctity of the Majles to remain forever. Instead of saying divisive things, we must walk with unity of speech along the path the imam has designated, you must submit to the God of the dear imam's religion.

The Tehran deputy added: Through the grace and blessing of Almighty God, I am and have been a small sincere follower, and since the year 1341 [21 March 1962-20 March 1963] my thoughts and beliefs have revolved around the liberating teachings of the dear imam, and I have dedicated my entire life, my youth, my family and my being to this path. I always sought to know my religious and political duty through the imam until the time I was banned from the pulpit, and during that period when I was banned from the pulpit, which was after two or three years, several of the ladies who had taken part in our classes were arrested.

Continuing, she discussed her religious activities before the revolution. She said: We had a meeting that was for women only. These meetings were held in every part of Tehran. One of them was in Pol-e Rumi. Dr. Mofateh sent one of the brothers after me who told me Dr. Mofateh wanted to see me. Several times they sent messages for me to speak at Qoba Mosque, which I did not accept. When I went he asked, haven't you heard of the imam's proclamation, I said no, he said the imam had said it is required of all preachers and speakers to expose the regime's corruption. I agreed and accepted the invitation to talk at Qoba Mosque. There I

spoke of Islamic government under the leadership of the vice-regent, and while there was a crowd in the streets and the SAVAK and commandos had surrounded the place, on the seventh day as I was speaking of the freedom of women under Islamic government I was arrested and imprisoned.

Continuing, Mariam Behruzi said: I have never wished to, and to date no one has heard me say these things. I have never wished to speak for myself, and more importantly, to speak of his holiness the imam for myself. However, they persuaded me and put their fingers on a sensitive point, the matter of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and my beliefs, and the fact that I have spent a lifetime on this path speaking its lessons and reading its lessons. Thus in any case I am obliged to say these things, the first meeting in which I spoke against the gentlemen and to his holiness the imam was in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980], and the groups were honored to visit the imam. The third group went to the Ershad Hoseyniyeh in 30 buses and I was to speak there, but I did not know that his Holiness the imam would also be there to speak. When I was on that same balcony reserved for his holiness the imam, I realized suddenly that I was beside that sacred being. I have never used these photographs in any elections, although many others have used photos that were much simpler, but I have never used these for myself. As I stood with the imam at that meeting, I saw that the crowd had an especially large number of men. The imposing presence of the imam and the splendor of Islam so excited me that the place is distinguished. I was standing and had not yet spoken when the imam turned and told me to go ahead and begin, go ahead. I spoke for an hour in the presence of his holiness the imam concerning the matter of the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and I praised that ayatollah, the light of the sky and the earth. The gist of my talk was that when God considers a nation to be worthy and wants to guide it, he makes his light clear in one of his saints so that they may be guided. After the talk, his holiness the imam said with fatherly kindness, God confirms what you say. This was one time when the imam prayed. Another time was on the return from the Population Control Conference in China, when we in the delegation were in the presence of the imam. Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the delegation, reported on the trip to the imam. He said that our delegation had a seven-part project. Four of the proposed articles had been prepared by Mariam Behruzi. Of the seven articles, two of the ones prepared by Mariam Behruzi were approved at the final session after commentary by her and became a part of Chinese law. His holiness the imam, whose blessed eyes were lowered, raised his eyes and said, what were the two articles? Ayatollah Yazdi asked me to explain them myself. I explained them, and his holiness the imam became happy and prayed again. May God grant you success, he said, and may he confirm you. It was at the end of that meeting that the imam authorized me to spend funds for the deprived and the oppressed. I asked him for permission to give funds to one of the organizations, the imam said no, you yourself are authorized to spend funds that come to you for the oppressed and the deprived.

She then discussed the method of obtaining financial aid for the Zaynab Society. She said: During one of the meetings that Ayatollah Yazdi had with the imam, I asked him to tell the imam that we have been involved in activities for some time, but we have no designated center for the Zaynab Society. If the imam confers favor and deems it advisable, ask him to permit us to use the imam's share for a place for a central office, and I ask a limit of 1.6 million tomans assistance. Ayatollah Yazdi went to the imam and gave some general explanations about the Zaynab Society, saying that the Zaynab Society is a cultural, political, social, and orthodox organization. It wants to have an office, it has asked you for permission to use the imam's share. The imam said, do you know these ladies? Ayatollah Yazdi said I only know Mariam Behruzi, the rest of them are supported by her. According to Ayatollah Yazdi his holiness the imam confirmed the request with a gesture of his blessed head, saying I agree. Then I wrote a letter and the imam wrote the following in his blessed hand:

The respected believers are authorized to use half of the blessed share of the imam (may God hasten his joyful advent) to purchase this center.

Of course in the same letter, since I myself was only authorized to register the funds for the oppressed and deprived, I wrote between parentheses, "under the supervision of Ayatollah Yazdi." The imam also agreed that the share should be paid under the supervision of Ayatollah Yazdi, which they ultimately did.

With this description, what do they say of this holy man? And how will they answer to God tomorrow? Thus his holiness the imam conferred his grace and wrote a letter in his noble handwriting for me personally for the organizations, and in this way he confirmed me.

Continuing, she said: In another instance they mentioned those photographs and spread false rumors. Of course there are many things that could be said, but since it is a matter of individuals and I am not talking about their reputations, now this brother of ours said whatever he wanted to say before the Majles. (And I no longer wish to call him brother.) He himself knows, with his God, but in the blessed month of Ramadan, when we must seek forgiveness of one another's mistakes so God will forgive our sins, is it right for you to disgrace another servant of God from the Majles rostrum? You were the one who spread the rumor of fornication. What you did was spread rumors, and since we are not talking about that individual now, there is no reason to discuss the issues either, the subject is negative. Many things were said, but it is not advisable and they must not be repeated from the Majles rostrum. This Majles has respect. I simply say in a word that with God as my witness, those rumors are absolutely false, and as far as I know the organizational colleagues and friends of that individual have the photograph, and his political friends distributed the photograph. Before I obtained the photographs, some of the gentlemen and brothers know that it was here, and Mr. Hashemi, may God protect him, knows this, that the

photographs were in the public relations office of the Council of Ministers and many people went there to look at them. These photographs had been distributed and many people have them. I obtained them as well, but I really cannot pass over what was said by Brother Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, that during the presentation of the Majles Research Commission's report I showed the photograph to someone. Does anyone really believe this? It was just the opposite. The photograph was in my hand, but I did not show it to the man. My comments are on tape, and I told the Majles Research Commission that I did not show this to anyone. I merely spoke of it, and the photograph was there. Those brothers asked me to see the photograph. They came and insisted I show it to them, and they said no, there is no need for you to see it. That day in the early morning when I came to the Majles I wrote a letter to Mr. Hashemi, saying sir, based on these things that are happening, it is this way. I really go along with anything, but I cannot tolerate this constant religious prejudice, I am prejudiced about the Koran. He called me and said I know what you are saying and what your motivation is. These things have come up before, and there are other problems, other people have experienced them. Now, since it is a political matter, it is better that it not be discussed. I said very well, let's not discuss it. I have given interpretations of the Koran for years and taught the commands of religion to the people and I consider these acts and ideas to be seriously forbidden, and I vigorously deny the allegation about circulating the photograph. If there is to be a quest for vengeance and they are going to accuse me, just as I said I deny this. One of the brothers said that some of the deputies think the photographs have to do with you. No, I have no photographs. I have worn a chador on my head since I was five or six years old, and when I could not say "two" I tied the knot under my chin and attended gatherings, and praise God we don't have problems like this.

She then discussed the charge that in her propaganda tracts she presented herself as Iran's representative in the Union of Parliamentary Women. She said: Was this portrayal false, that you find a problem with mentioning it? The brothers in the delegations sent to the conference of parliaments saw that when I was sent to the first conference of parliaments I wrote the following letter to the imam:

To the exalted leader, Your Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may your influence continue. With greetings and the hope of a long life for your excellency. With the grace of the Almighty, the blessing of the Islamic revolution, and the confidence of the respected Majles deputies, I have been elected to represent the women of Iran at the Union of Parliamentary Women, and this is the first meeting where the representative of Iranian women has attended. Naturally, along with the discussion about rights, views will be expressed about Resolution 598 and the defense of women's rights in Iran under the government of the Islamic Republic. I wish to visit your excellency and receive guidance from his holiness the imam. I hope, if you confer this favor, to benefit from your holiness' prophetic guidance. May God grant a long life to our exalted leader over all Muslims, and with the hope of victory for the dear combatants and an Islamic world.

I did not meet with the imam, however. We departed, and as soon as we got to Managua, the officials and the ambassador who had come to meet us immediately gave me this letter from his holiness the imam which had been sent by telex by Haj Ahmad Aqa: "In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Respected sister Mrs. Behruzi, his holiness the imam apologizes for not meeting with you, and he says that you yourself can do a good job of discussing the problem of the cultures of East and West, the role of the Muslim woman in the Islamic revolution, the future of Islam, the role of the woman in the imposed war of world imperialism and its continuation, the wretched condition of the Iranian woman under Reza Khan and Mohammad Reza Khan, the promotion of decadent Western culture in Iran in the name of progress, the role of the Iranian woman in defeating the superpowers, and the role of the veil in dealing with the cultures of East and West."

This was telexed to me by the office of his holiness the imam. I made use of it, and praise God my talk was such that it was published in the most widely circulated newspapers and magazines, and was welcomed, validated, and praised, and the Iranian woman was presented as having the highest and best social rights in the world. I gave reasoned answers there on theological and legal issues such as a woman's judgement, a woman's witness, and testimony in court, polygamy, the veil, and other issues, with theological and legal proofs. They were approved, and a letter of thanks came calling it the best and most complete political report from Iran. Its names are there now at the conference of parliaments secretariat. Isn't this evidence that I was a representative, didn't the deputies themselves vote? Now as for what the posters say, these talks and speeches of mine, my radio broadcasts, and those theological and legal answers I gave at those sessions, and there I didn't even have anything with me to study or anyone to ask, all these things illustrate the fact that I studied the external theology course. When I returned here, clergymen saw those speeches and talks, especially with regard to the testimony of women, where in some cases a woman is allowed to testify. So many clergymen were pleased and expressed their happiness. All of my legal and theological answers were confirmed. Why should I say how much I have studied and what I have done. Your talking here in that tone is truly unworthy of a Majles deputy.

Continuing, Mrs. Behruzi said: On some of the propaganda posters the term martyr's mother was used. First of all, I thank the militant clergy [rowhaniyat-e mobarez], all the political groups, along with the respected clergy, with thanks to all those who worked on the elections in some way and spread propaganda, including the students, the respected university graduates, just as I also said before the commission, I did not know what was written on the posters, such things as martyr's mother. Of course, compared to the sacrifices of

the noble nation of Iran, my martyr is certainly insignificant, and I have never used his name, even in the first days when the respected speaker of the Majles, Mr. Karrubi, with that special humility of his, which is really an indication of his greatness, said while offering his condolences: "The Martyr Foundation and I myself are at your service, martyr's mother, your wish is our command." I merely thanked him for his expression of kindness. In any case, if my son had not been martyred at the front, there were other martyrs, and there were martyrs to the revolution. We have no martyr's mother in the Majles who can understand the sense of being a martyr's mother. Would a martyr's mother come and use her martyr's name for herself? My son was an unknown 16-year-old mobilization member. What part could he play in my election and obtaining votes? Was my son a martyr and I a martyr's mother when I was elected to the first term? Was I a parliamentary representative to the Women's Union in the second term?

Mrs. Behruzi discussed her level of education. She said: I completed secondary school and studied for about 18 years. I also studied external theology, and as His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him) said "I am a child of knowledge," I too am a scholar. There are the speeches, commentaries, and talks that I have given. I will cite an example from the words of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the dear leader of the revolution. I was at a meeting with him attended by the Guidance Commission (Mr. Qorbani was chairman of the commission then). All the commission's members were religious scholars and clergymen. Ayatollah Khamene'i said I am very happy to be in this gathering of clergymen and religious scholars. He was about to continue when he was interrupted by Mr. Qorbani who said the sisters are scholars too, many have a role in the commission. Ayatollah Khamene'i said "I was considering her as one of you, meaning she is a member of the clergy in woman's garb. I accept her as well as one of the scholarly clergy, and this is why I did not make an exception."

After Mrs. Behruzi's defense, her credentials were put to a vote and were approved with 127 votes in favor, 82 votes opposed, and 14 abstentions.

The second item on the agenda was the bill to exempt oral and dental health workers and health technicians, presented as a single-urgency motion. The single-urgency status was approved.

The final item on the agenda was the report from the Foreign Policy Commission to amend the law on the Islamic Republic of Iran's parliamentary group with membership in the conference of parliaments enacted 3 August 1983, continued consideration of which was postponed until tomorrow's public session.

Letter to President from 152 Deputies

At the end of yesterday's Majles session the following letter, signed by 152 deputies addressed to the president, was read: To the respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, may his influence continue, with greetings and hopes for greater success in achieving the imam's aspirations (may God have mercy on him) in the service of the deprived and oppressed. In this letter we the deputies of the nation's deprived areas declare our continued thanks and praise to Your Excellency for your attention and favor to the matter of the budget for the deprived areas, as well as for your recent visit to remote and deprived areas in the nation's east and west during the New Year's holidays. The continuation of your excellency's policy of visiting more of the nation's deprived areas and the unqualified support of the Majles for the anti-poverty programs is a big step towards the implementation of social justice in the country, which was a goal of our late imam, and the exalted leader of the revolution is also set on this idea.

RESALAT Report on 24 April Majles Session

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[Report on 24 April 1990 Majles session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, by RESALAT's legal and parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Abutaleb Habibi, the people's deputy from Qa'em-shahr and Savadkuh who said:

During the past 10 years, these people have fought in an endless struggle on three warfronts in order to consolidate the holy regime of the Islamic Republic. They will continue this struggle. With regard to the aggressors of East and West, they will implement the principle of neither West nor East, as laid down by the founder of the Islamic Republic, and this will continue. This is the same aggression which wanted to destroy our revolution or at least turn it from its true path. But the wise and great imam was able to make the ummah aware of the enemy's plots and he was able to guide the people toward that direction in terms of their resistance. The world was witness and saw how the aggressor beat a hollow drum and, as the imam had predicted, could not do a damn thing in the political arena.

With regard to the second stage of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran's struggle he said: They finally put our people into the second stage of the fight, which was the imposed war. In this connection our people, backed by the brave soldiers and guardsmen, showed utmost bravery and resistance during the hardest times of the war, upon orders of the great imam—may his passage to heaven be expedited. During seven and a half years of war with an enemy which had the most modern weapons in the world, they put the enemy in its place. Today we see the world aggressors and the sworn enemies of the Islamic revolution stage a psychological war by making a lot of noise about stockpiles of chemical weapons in Iraq, the immigration of Jews to the occupied lands of Palestine, the attack on Panama or else

intervention in the free country of Romania or elsewhere. In this way they wish to recover in the Middle East and in other Third World countries under their control, their interests which were lost in revolutionary Iran. The puppet, so-called Muslim, rulers of the aggressors who are separate from their people, instead of backing the innocent oppressed Muslim people, especially the innocent people of Palestine, are racing one another to establish ties with Zionism so that they may continue their existance a little while longer under the banner of the aggressors. What foolish thoughts!

The speaker added: Today the world is witnessing a huge movement by the free Muslim peoples of the world. The liberation movement stretches from Soviet Azerbaijan, Jammu, Kashmir, Lebanon and Palestine to South Africa, Europe and America. It has demolished all their political assumptions. This has gone so far that the leader of the godless Eastern bloc officially announces that it seems the peoples of the world have turned to God, while the U.S. President admits the same thing. But one thing in which our people have yet to succeed is the thrid phase of the struggle which is the one against economic terrorists. This is the only thing that is bothering the ummah present on the scenes, this economic pressure. This question remains for the Iranian people and also for the supporters of the revolution abroad and becomes a sort of puzzle. These people have fought against the policies and plots of the world's aggressors and have come out victorious. These people have put out the inferno started by the plots hatched by the aggressors, with their holy anger and their strength that comes from God to put in their place the military aggressors of the world. These people got rid of all the puppets of the Eastern and Western aggressors, the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], the leftists and other groups. It not only made this country but the whole world unsafe for them. So how come they cannot solve the economic issues? This is something that is making our oppressed society worry over the future of the revolution.

The speaker continued: Have the people or the revolutionary ummah lost the capability to fight? Or are they waiting for some action from officials and those at the top of such affairs? Why is it that when talk of economic criminals is brought up in the Majles, some of the people in our society think of it only in terms of a slogan? This is where the judicial authorities, the Majles and the officials have to show their faithful people that this is not just a slogan, that it is a serious decision. Our great imam felt the dangers of economic terrorists inside and outside the country right from the start. He ordered experts, researchers, 'ulema and Islamic experts to come up with some plans to replace the current economic system that is ruling the world, in order to defend the rights of the oppressed people. This would bring out of poverty the poor of the world as well as the oppressed Muslims. Not only steps in favor of the oppressed have not been taken so far, but in the 10 years since the revolution, we are now witnessing the accumulated wealth of a minority of our people. Is this what the imam's statement meant for us to do?

He continued his remarks by saying: Why should we see today the mind-blowing profits made by the private companies and the accumulated wealth of public stock companies, some of which are creating problems in our economic system by having more than 700 billion rials in investments? The least we could have done to implement our dear imam's statement, was to have our officials ask to see if such private or public state companies, or foundations or other economic centers had legal or religious permission from any source. In what office or register were they registered? Now that the speaker of the Majles and the rest of the Majles of these oppressed people are thinking about the issue of economic criminals, there are some who think of growth in our economic culture. They say one cannot use force to combat economic criminals, that we should first change our economic culture. What I want to say is that in order to save the revolution during the issue of the Hypocrities an other groups, or with regard to uprooting drug addiction, there was never a question of culture and there never will be. If there was no steadfastness then, there would be no revolution now.

The people's deputy from Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh added: I support the statement made by the respected speaker of the Majles on 5 April at the holy grave of our imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise. As a servant of the people I issue a warning from the Majles microphone that if we resort to [words illegible], we have to think of the revolution's future in a different way. Now it is up to you, the holy blood of the martyres, the holy ideal of the dear imam and the Hezbollah ummah who are the real investors in this revolution.

He concluded by mentioning a few points to the officials: Keeping in mind that the rice-growing season in Mazandaran Province is getting near, I would like to ask the ministers of oil and agriculture to provide the proper fertilizers and pesticides as well as agricultural equipment and fuel for the farmers of that province, especially those in Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh.

Mr. Nazari-pur from the constituency of Darab was the second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles. He said: We spent Jerusalem Day in conditions when the Soviet Union, using tricks and policies of compromise, has allowed the immigration of thousands of Jews to occupied areas, in order to strengthen this cancerous tumor in the heart of the Islamic world. This breaks the heart of anyone feeling sympathy for Islam and causes the people's and the officials' trust in the Soviet Union to drop to the lowest possible level.

There is also the cruel killing of the Muslims of Kashmir by the Indian government. It is the duty of all Muslims throughout the world to show their solidarity and complain to the Indian government. It is up to the officials of the Islamic Republic to have a clear view on this subject.

It is up to them to see to the problems of Muslims with all their might, to consider this as part of their foreign policy. Last Friday [20 April] coincided with Jerusalem Day, which can be considered to be one of the everlasting momentos left by our wise Imam. Millions of Muslims throughout the world shouted death to America and death to Israel showing that despite the treason by some of their leaders and rulers, the huge Hezbollah masses throughout the world are present on the scenes. They will continue to show their presence until the downfall of the occupier Israel.

The speaker added: The Al Saud rulers should know that even with all the good deeds in the world to please God and even if they prevent Iranian pilgrims from going to the huge congress of hajj they will not be able to prevent the message of the Islamic revolution from reaching the hearts of the world's Muslims. The world's oppressed and all Muslims must rise up and take their affairs into their own hands. How long are you going to sit their and have your fate determined by Moscow or Washington? How long is your Jerusalem going to be crushed under the boots of American and Israeli lackeys? How long will the land of Jerusalem, Palestine, Lebanon and the innocent Muslims of those lands, have to live under the control of criminals? How long are you going to watch while some of your rulers help them?

The people's deputy from Darab added: One of the important things that has to be paid attention to is the struggle against economic wrongdoers. This was discussed by the respected speaker of the Majles on 5 April and 23 April. Unfortunately this is one issue that has not been resolved after 11 years. Keeping in mind the fact that the imam at various times painted a clear picture of Islamic finance, if we were to implement these principles, without a doubt our economic problems would be solved. Social justice will then prevail. Today, without a doubt economic issues have a political side to them as well. The servants and lackeys of the United States and other aggressors want to make our innocent and patient people feel cold and disappointed toward the revolution by implementing high prices, causing inflation, looting people's wealth and gaining wealth through illegal means. This way they want to reach their evil goal, which is the destruction of the revolution. Now is the time we must realize that the time for advice and friendly warnings is over. We must act as Imam 'Ali did and punish these social leeches who know nothing of God and who commit corruption on earth. If God is willing the new plan to combat economic criminals will realize the long-awaited expectations of the people from the judicial system—which is to deal seriously and continuously with the issue, to go as far as the death penalty, as they did in the case of drug addiction. They should then make an effort to improve the lot of the slum-dwellers and those who have given martyrs, who according to the Imam are the real owners of this revolution, whose worth is so much more than those who live in palaces. This will be the greatest gift for our oppressed and steadfast people.

Mr. Nazuri-pur continued: At this time I will draw your attention to what the imam said: One thing that the clergy must never forget, and one thing they must not shy away from, despite others' propaganda, is support for the poor and the oppressed.

Anyone who does not do this, is in fact ignoring social justice. We must under all conditions feel ourselves responsible for this. If we do not do our best to implement it, we have committed treason against Islam and Muslims.

Mr. Nazari-pur added: Another issue that has to be considered, which is a warning to the people of Iran and to officials is the question of cultural control which is unfortunately growing rapidly in the country. If this is not taken into consideration it can destroy the revolution from within and it will destroy human beings. The question of not wearing Islamic clothing in a proper way, the spread of music and song, uncontrolled freedom of the press, promotion of counter-values by cultural or sports' magazines, the formation of a chess federation, dirty video tapes, sexy and disgusting photos, trips abroad for tourism and trade purposes, trips taken by a group of corrupt men and women as individuals or as a family in order to sully the image of the revolution and finally corruption in offices, the economic crisis, inflation, high prices and hoarding are some of the issues at hand. If we do not make an effort to solve these issues to keep our moral values the true values of the revolution will be replaced by counter-values. Our people are suffering as a result of these things at present. They are waiting for a massive movement to combat prostitution and immoral behavior. If God is willing, the respected officials of the Islamic Repulic will use this readiness in the people with their pure emotions, in order to destroy corruption and immorality, to keep our values in accordance with a proper program. That way we will make the spirit of our Imam happy since he was the one to teach us the lesson of staying with the people and using all their talent.

With regard to the issue of reconstruction, the deputy from Darab said: The period of reconstruction and the Five-Year Plan has, thank God, started following approval by the Majles and the Council of Guardians. At this sensitive time it is worthy for the government to keep in mind the Imam's advice on reconstruction in the regime, and pay priority attention to the growth and well-being of agriculture. It should put all its effort toward this because it is painful to see that despite all our capability, we are still importing our wheat from abroad. Since the town in my constituency produces 100,000 tons of wheat according to the grain bureau and the Ministry of Commerce and since 45,000 to 60,000 tons of surplus wheat is given back to the government every year, I thought it best to mention a few points. The town of Darab is about 12,000 square km in size and has about 80,000 hectares of land with irrigation systems and about 90,000 hectares without irrigation systems. It also has about 15,000 to 17,000 hectares of citrus groves. Because of drought about 80 to 90 springs in this town have dried up and several villages have been abandoned.

It is necessary for the government to take some effective steps in providing water for this region.

Mr. Nazari-pur concluded by mentioning a few points to the officials about his constituency and asked that facilities be provided for the farmers in his area.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Sadiqi the people's deputy from Bonab and Malekan. He commented on the presence of millions of people, who were fasting, during the Jerusalem Day demonstrations and said: The presence of millions of people who were fasting during Jerusalem Day proved that free Muslims throughout the world have not forgotten the innocence of the oppressed Palestinian people as a bitter truth for humanity.

All this, despite the plots hatched by world aggressors headed by the world-engulfing United States in strengthening the racist and occupying Zionist regime and bringing up the subject of naming Jerusalem as the capital of the regime occupying Palestine.

He then remarked on the illegal production of nuclear weapons by the Iraqi regime and said: The other issue worth noting these days is Iraq's illegal nuclear activity. I mentioned this quite clearly three or four months ago in one of my pre-agenda speeches. I said that Iraq's efforts in obtaining not only nuclear weapons but also a hydrogen weapon is worth noting. The illegal activity undertaken by that country to obtain chelichium [as translated] is definitely worth investigating. We know full well that Iraq's Ba'ath reginme in no way has the technology to do this and it is in fact the West, headed by the great Satan, the United States, who wants to make a secret deal with that country, thereby strengthening the military might of that inhuman regime. I believe that the outward disputes between Iraq and Western countries will in the end cause that country to negotiate with the Zionist regime. This is the issue at the root of the activity. It is absolutely impossible that this technology would be given—which is only available to very few countries in a limited and controlled way—to a country such as Iraq, because we know their technological capability, without first being sure of Iraq's political inclination or if that inclination happened to be anti-Western. This regime has shown itself to be one of the hardest and most anti-human in the world. The level of this regime's tendency toward seeking revenge became known following the widespread use of chemical weapons especially in the Halabjah disaster against defenseless humans. That showed this regime's wicked and anti-human nature. It is now worthy of international organizations and the Atomic Energy Commission, especially the officials of the holy Islamic regime to pay more serious attention to the illegal nuclear activity taking place, of course with prior knowledge of the West, especially the United States.

Mr. Sadiqi continued his remarks by saying that the recent move by Italy to hand over sophisticated frigates, under the current sensitive conditions of Resolution 598, is the clearest sign that the West is strengthening Iraq. He added: This activity by the Ba'athist regime to obtain nuclear, missile and chemical technology should be taken seriously. It is necessary for us to strengthen, more than before, what we have achieved scientifically, especially during the war. By planning, directing and gathering individual activity, we must make an effort to increase engineering research and we must seriously strengthen the research centres that exist. We must listen carefully to the advice of the imam who said: It is up to governments and offcials to encourage current generations and future generations of experts. They should encourage them by financial and spiritual means and should prevent the destructive trend in importing goods. We saw that the respected Majles strongly supported the plan dealing with university professors, showing that in research and teaching it seriously supports the respected and worthy professors and researchers. In addition, it approved a plan to set up a teaching and research center connected to the Ministry of Defense and support units of the armed forces. In this way it wants to centralize military research, especially to make it more systematic. It is hoped that military officials, especially the respected minister of defense and support and the military commanders centralize all their research activity within the framework of this center.

Now serious and planned activity by the executive officials in this connection could produce very good results in this recent project. In this regard one has to ask the ministries in charge of industry, learning, and research to attach more importance to the transfer of their advanced technologies.

The speaker added: I would like to ask the respected minister of culture and higher education to pay more attention to issues relating to universities, especially with regard to advanced courses, and particularly doctorates, to increase the teaching capacity of universities. One weak or perhaps incorrect move—God forbid—would have disastrous results.

The fourth and last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. 'Abdollah Nuri, the people's deputy from Malayer. He said: This is a rare opportunity for us to ask questions. I hope that I and the great officials of the beloved people will make an effort to analyze these questions and to show sensitivity toward them. What is our revolution? What has it done and to what extent has it gained control? I am not worthy to answer questions at the level of the revolution, so I shall seek help from the spirit of the speach of the founder of the revolution. He said: Our revolution has shown the peoples of the world the devil's lair and the nets set out by the hungers. He also said: God give us strength and make our revolution the start of the destruction of the palaces of cruelty, the fall of the stars guiding the aggressors in the world. May all the world's oppressed benefit from the blessings of the rule of the weak. So you see that the answer is clear, the path of the movement and the end goal, which is a world Islamic revolution in the hands of God. So we must not worry about the revolution: Rather, we must worry about ourselves so that we do not lose our value, so that we

remain worthy of benefitting from the revolution, so that this generation will not slow down the trend of the revolution, which would be disadvantageous to this and future generations.

The speaker added: God forbid we should be harmed by our own exaggerated actions, to change the clear Koranic values [Koranic verse omitted] with words of democracy that do nothing but fill months. That way we will be terrified and we will fall from the roof. We should not yield ground to the wealthy and the opportunists, either those with Islamic faces or those without, so that they become more rich and powerful than Elqaniyan, Sabet Pascal and Hojabar Yazdani [three very wealthy businessmen in the previous regime—FBIS], to plunder the people's wealth. That way the class difference in our society will reach astronomical proportions. We should not show so much softness that the wicked hoarders go as far as to bargain over potatoes with the top executive official in this country, who is second only to the leader himself. Is it not shameful for a revolutionary country whose values are based on the Koran and the traditions of the holy imams—peace be unto them and their families—to discuss every day the discovery of one or more gangs involved in embezzlement of public funds, either here or abroad? The coup leaders in Sudan, for whom we have no respect, execute currency smugglers. God forbid, are we less than they are? Is it not ugly and horrible for our people to have the filthy picture of George Washington circulating as our currency instead of photos of Moddares and Jerusalem? Let them be damned—those who want to once again bring about Western control over our economy in this manner, to make our own money worthless. Should we only see the kind side of Islam, to show so much indifference that bribery and theft take hold in the roots of society? Would we then be able to uproot that epidemic?

With regard to Islamic covering for women and their dignity he said: Should we allow the veil or the scarf to fall from the heads of our girls and our women? Should we allow bands of prostitutes and areas of ill-repute to form in the corners of our towns? Was it not one of the main slogans of the revolution to liberate our women from the filthy and sickening culture of the West? It is because we do not have the power to confront this or—God forbid—have we lost our sensitivity? In any case, can advice and requests without official backing dry the roots of a corrupt culture which speaks of an all-out war against the revolution and its values? Do Islam and the revolution allow us to become so indifferent as to allow a gentleman who went to the United States seven years before the revolution, who has come back two years after the revolution, a Muslim force, an expert and a Hezbollah who has given martyrs, to be fired from his position because of a warning about spending public funds and to write in a gathering headed by myself that so-and-so should not be allowed to continue working? I suggest that a fair body look into the background of both people at the same time to see which of them has stood by the revloution. I ask the respected president to issue a firm order with regard to recent hiring and firing in ministries and related organizations so that the forces who have been to the war fronts and are sympathetic toward the revolution are not isolated. Removing the minimum selection requirement from the universities is without a doubt one of the serious scourges threatening the revolution and calls into question the philosophy of the cultural revolution. The result will be that the atmosphere will be right for the growth of those who are indifferent toward the revolution, even against it. Then the result of their learning—for which the people have to pay—will not benefit, the people in the end.

He concluded by advising the Ministry of Guidance to save paper, saying: The Ministry of Guidance should control the use of paper. There are so many magazines and newspapers which do not have readers and are of no use to us and are only printed for ministries. In any case, we have to spend several hundred million dollars a year on paper: Why should they print so many sheets that have to be thrown away? This could be used instead for notebooks and books for students.

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was continued discussion of the report by the Foreign Affairs Commission with regard to correcting the 3 August 1983 law of the parliamentary group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a member of the inter-parliamentary union. Following speeches by those in favor and those against, the bill itself and the entire proposal was put to the vote but was not ratified.

The second item on the agenda was the first round of discussions by the legal and judicial commission on a bill dealing with the duties and powers of the head of the judiciary. Following details given by the reporter of that commission, discussions were postponed until the next session because of a lack of time.

Notices by the Majles deputies given to the executive officials of the country:

Mr. Taha'i deputy from Tonekabon and Ramsar:

To the plan and budget organization and the sports commissioon with regard to providing adequate funds for a sports complex in Ramsar and the completion of sports facilities in five other towns.

Mr. [name illegible] deputy from Gorgan and Aq Qola:

To the minister of education to convert the local Gorgan education office to a general education office for the Gorgan and Dasht region. To the minister of roads and transportation for changing the road between Gorgan and Behshahr and Kordkuy to 'Ali-abad to highways.

Mr. Hoseyni, deputy from Bandar Lengeh:

To the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic to give coverage of the second channel of the Vision to the village of Bastak.

Mr. Pur Mehdi Fallah, deputy from Astaneh Ashrafiyeh:

To the minister of oil to speed up the decision on providing a contractor to put down gas pipes for Astaneh Ashrafiyeh.

Mr. Rohani-Zadeh, deputy from Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh:

To the ministry of health and health Education to speed up construction of the emergency unit in Pol-e Sefid. To the Organization of Administrative and Personnel Affairs to organize a directive giving the right to the civil servants of Savadkuh to have the same benefits as those in deprived areas.

Mr. Kabiri, deputy from Marvadasht:

To the ministr of health and health education to corect the bonus scheme for those who serve outside the medical center in Marvdasht.

Mr. Vahid Ahmadi, deputy from Kangavar and Sahneh:

To the minister of roads and transportation to speed up continued operations to build a highway between Targesan and Deyrgaran. To the minister of reconstruction crusade with regard to an asphalt covering for the road between Pol-e Shohada and Pol-e Chehd.

Mr. Qazi-zadeh Hashemi, deputy from Fariman, Sarakhs and Ahmad-abad:

To the head of the judicial power with regard to the interview given by the general prosecutor of mashhad concerning the recent issues of farmers in Sarakhs, prior to the announcement of a research report ratified by the Majles.

Pakistan

Paper Scores Western 'Propaganda' on Afghanistan

BK1605115090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Vilification Campaign"]

[Text] The West has launched a new wave of propaganda certainly aimed at discrediting the Afghan Mujahidin particularly the "fundamentalist" Gulbuddin Hekmatyar group. Several media reports emanating from the US have tried to portray the Mujahidin as dangerous drug-smugglers who are also passing on their decade-long combat experience in the Afghan war to the neighbouring freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir. A May 13 WASHINGTON POST article has pin-pointed Gulbuddin and his commanders as being involved in heroin trafficking. Ruthlessness was portrayed when narrating how Gulbuddin's group murdered a fellow Mujahidin commander who had launched an anti-poppy cultivation campaign in his area of influence in Afghanistan in return for American financial assistance for the development of the area. In another report published by the WASHINGTON TIMES experienced Afghan Mujahidin are said to be imparting combat training to Kashmiris fighting against Indian occupation. Batches of Kashmiri youths from occupied Kashmir are reported to have received training in handling rifles, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons as well as taking part in fighting along with the Mujahidin against Kabul troops in Afghanistan.

The campaign to malign the Afghan Mujahidin is clearly intended to justify an impending American cut-off in arms supplies to them. The Americans and the Soviets are expected to reach an agreement on a political settlement in Afghanistan at the superpower summit in Washington at the end of the month. The two major elements of this agreement are likely to be a mutual cut-off in arms supplies to their respective Afghan allies, and the holding of elections in Afghanistan for a new government in Kabul. To pave the ground for such a political settlement, a recent report in THE NEW YORK TIMES portrayed the continuing war in Afghanistan after the Soviet troop withdrawal as "purposeless." It described incidents how Mujahidin rockets and Kabul Scud missiles hit, not each other, but the poor civilians in buses, markets, schools, mosques and villages. It also highlighted the lament of ordinary Afghans for a return to normalcy and an end to the war through diplomacy and negotiations.

All are looking forward to the end of hostilities in Afghanistan through a political settlement and the refugees being allowed to return safely to their homes. But any political settlement in Afghanistan ought to be shaped not by the superpowers, but by the Afghans themselves with the help of neighbouring countries like Iran and Pakistan. This is especially so when Washington's motivation in pushing through an Afghan political settlement now is suspect. The Americans clearly do not want a continuing war in Afghanistan to fuel the Muslim movement in occupied Kashmir. Neither do they want to see a Muslim "fundamentalist" government come into power in Kabul that would support the Kashmiri movement across the border. Thus, the Americans would want to work out a political settlement with the Soviets that would ensure that the Afghan "fundamentalists" do not come up on top in Kabul. For this, they have already agreed to allow Najibullah to contest the proposed elections. All this is tantamount to a wholesale sellout of the Afghan people who have shed blood, sweat and tears for ten long years fighting against the Kabul regime.

UN Security Council Apprised of Indian 'Threat'

BK1705094490 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Pakistan has told the United Nations Security Council that the Indian military threat to Pakistan had acquired menacing proportions as a result of ominous large-scale Indian troops movement in Kashmir as well as along the India-Pakistan border. In a letter to the president of the Security Council, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, also underscored India's massive use of force to suppress the uprising in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The foreign minister's letter has been delivered in New York to the president of the council,

Ambassador Klaus Tornudd of Finland [as heard], by the permanent representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Nasim Ahmad.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in his letter has drawn urgent attention toward the recent developments in the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which has created an extremely grave situation having serious implications for breach of peace and security.

Reportage on Prime Minister's Visit to Turkey

WA1605182390

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Ankara, Turkey, please see the Turkey section of the 16 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.